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THE
VOYAGES
AND
CRUISES
OF
Commodore WALKER.



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THE
VOYAGES
AND
CRUISES
OF

Commodore WALKER,

During the late

SPANISH and FRENCH WARS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

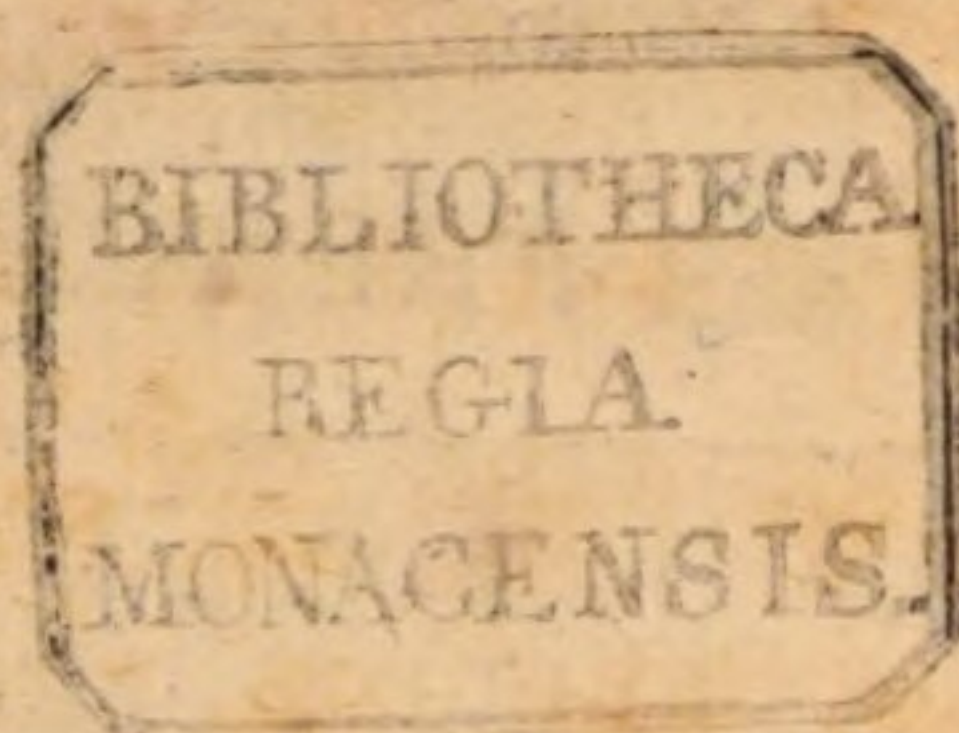
VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

MY intent, as a compiler of the following transactions, is to enter upon the scene of business with as little trouble to the reader as possible, without the form of a preface or apology ; and yet, for the sake of information, there is a necessity of saying a few words in the place of both.

The world, more through a tender and compassionate concern for Mr. Walker, than out

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of meer curiosity, has long made enquiry regarding his sufferings : “ How the man, who in his public character ranged the seas, as a hawk does the air, in search of enemies, and generally victorious, should so far sink under the displeasure of those very gentlemen, whom he mostly endeavoured to serve, as to be held by them a prisoner for now four years. And how he, who was before possessed of a very ample fortune, should become a debtor, by the many valuable prizes which he had taken. To this we will say, that a deficiency indeed arose in
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his fortune by his having advanced too freely several large sums to his officers and the men abroad ; which were disputed in his accounts at home, to a difference of near five thousand pounds. But supposing him indebted to them, the world with greater astonishment asks the question, “ why they still detain him ; when by such imprisonment he becoming a bankrupt had given up his *all* to his creditors, who had any claim upon him ? ” But to give the best answer it is in my power, I have often heard Mr. Walker himself lament how unhappily those very

gentlemen were imposed upon in a bad belief of him, by some evil men ; who, to screen their own wicked acts from justice, and to get into favour of those gentlemen they had abused, falsely represented his intent only of prosecuting his right at law, as an avowed resolution of becoming their enemy, and under that advantage charged him as the author or confederate of their own base attempts against them.

As I had the honour, for such I shall ever deem it, of having been with him in most of the cruises he made, and engaged-

gagements in which he commanded, during the late wars, I have often in the time of his confinement, asked him to give me leave to publish an account of his conduct as a commander at sea, to shew the world that no part of that conduct could with any propriety be used, as a reason for his being so long confined ; urging the circumstance of such confinement as a sufficient reason for the publication, but I have been more than once checked in my purpose, with these words, *Have patience, my friend, the public does not yet make my case its concern.*

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But the house of commons having, under their consideration the state of bankrupts, lately taken his case into examination, and as from their general regard to mankind, the public has reason to expect that such examination of his particular, though not singular case, will produce a law for the relief of all persons from the power of the resentment of their creditors ; (who, as the laws now stand, are the only people in the state who have power of doing an injury to their fellow subjects, without being accountable for the same) ; the general curiosity has

has been raised to enquire more particularly into circumstances relating to him, and into the causes of his confinement : I therefore apprehended it a fit season for renewing my former applications.

For tho' whilst his case still lies submitted to that august body, till some determination be agreed on, for the assistance of all persons in the like circumstances, we would not be thought to appeal from that submission, the following sheets being only a detail of his actions at sea, to set his conduct in the first place clear as a sea officer ; yet the
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methods used by some of his enemies to misrepresent him to the world, oblige his friends to dissipate such false representations, endeavoured to be drawn over, as a cloud against the truth of his actions; lest a prejudice at this time taking place against him, might be of destructive consequence. We say not this from a mistrust, that any one of Mr. Walker's friends in particular has been singly set upon to withdraw his regard from him; but as an offer to enter the lists, whenever an attack shall be made upon the whole in general; and to ward off any strokes of
art

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art in the combat, a few of his particular friends have thought proper to advise this defence, or *Narrative of Facts*, which, like the engravings on Æneas' shield, may represent such truths as check the force of his competitors.

On these arguments of his friends, I at length gained the permission so long solicited; but after having delivered the copy to him for his perusal, I must own, I received it back from his hands much dissatisfied at the severity of his correction, he having run his pen thro' very near one third of it. At which I am not so much disobliged,

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by the shortening of the performance, as at the loss of real truths, which would have illustrated the chief personage of my work. And though this account may speak to the modesty of the gentleman himself, yet it is so far paradoxical, that it takes greatly from his merit. However, as I would not oblige the world in this particular at his pain, I took his permission on the best footing I could get it; and have only repaired the breaks, with some few additions, where, by the chasms made, a new splicing of the thread was necessary to carry on the line in a regular
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introduction of circumstances.
And will only say of him herein,
as Mr. Waller does of good writers,

Poets lose half the praise they would have got,
Was it but known what they discreetly blot.

As the various accidents arising in such a course of action, and the successes attending his conduct, were at all times beheld and noted down by me as matters, which, besides the natural entertainment they might give in the relation, were worthy of my own attentive review of them, as an improvement to myself; I therefore not only made a commentary of all
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proceedings as they arose, where I myself was present, but have since, to compleat my history, carefully gathered every particular of those actions, from which I was absent, in the repeated and compared reports of those officers and others, who acted under him therein ; for as to his own relation of them, though I never once had the least denial of his friendship, I am less obliged to him than to any one man living.

Tho' the account of the cruises, distinguished as being under the managers of the Royal Family private ships of war, be that
which

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which principally concerns the consideration in view, as they constitute the reasons for his present imprisonment; yet as the former cruises were introductory of these, I beg leave to give some account of the whole, chiefly to range facts in their proper places, which by common report have been crouded into the actions of one cruise, when they belonged to another. And for the more agreeable reading, I have for the most part dropt the journal and sea phraseology, to throw the matter into a less circumstantial and more easy relation.

In

In entertainment of myself, I have also ventured sometimes to deviate from the common tract of the subject ; by pursuing various concurring incidents, as they intervened. which, tho' they may be thought by some severe readers to be running out of the way too near the borders of romance, I am persuaded will be pleasing to many, and pardoned by all ; as we shall never lose sight of the main road, or err from truth. For in offering this story to the world, I look upon myself as giving an invitation to a various company ; and shall endeavour
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to spread the table : but lest any thing should be disliked, as foreign or out of season ; every such plate shall have a marked cover to it, that they, who please, may pass it over.

Mr. Walker, from his own generosity, has frequently made another objection to the present publication, that of his friends being put to the expence of reading any relation concerning him. Did my fortune, like his spirit, set me above the common fashion of letting our friends, whom we invite, pay for any part of the entertainment ; I should then have had

I the

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the pleasure of asking his friends at my sole expence. But as the case stands, they must look on the invitation like our usual turtle-feasts ; where the owner gives the treat, and the company pay for their wine.



V O Y.

VOYAGES

IN THE

DUKE WILLIAM.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Walker, being part owner of the ship Duke William, takes out letters of marque for her, escapes a Spanish privateer, enters with his ship into the government's service at Carolina, and protects the trade of that province.

WE are now beginning with the detail of several actions, wherein Mr. Walker, as a commander, always prevailed to the entire satisfaction of his employers, and of the officers and people under him. We would not, however have it imagined,

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that

that he undertook and executed such command undisciplined in the art of war. Such successes could not in the nature of things be expected, but from an attained knowledge and approved experience, of the powers of that art. He was not, it is true, brought up in the navy of England, a circumstance so far a disadvantage to him, as more than once to have frustrated the intentions of some gentlemen, his friends, who wished to see his talents exerted in that higher sphere of honour—but he was early and regularly educated in the navy of Holland; and had been in some engagements under various commanders in the Dutch service, against the Turks. An universal peace becalming the European seas, he turned his talents to the attaining a fortune in the nearest branch of business to that in which he was educated; namely,

namely, that of trading, in his own ships, wherein he always commanded. To this circumstance we may greatly ascribe that calmness of temper, and presence of mind, so prevalent in him on all occasions; as he learned the art of command and oeconomy together, at the constant risque of his own property.

In this station we will take him up in the year 1739-40, commander, and a considerable owner of the ship Duke William, bound from London to Gibraltar, and from thence to South-Carolina. The war being now declared, and Mr. Walker chusing to reap what advantages thereof might accrue in the aforesaid passage, determined to put himself in the best posture of defence, and took out letters of marque for the said ship, not with an intent to cruise as a privateer, but to

proceed with her on a trading voyage. Accordingly he fitted her out with twenty guns; but did not incumber his trade with a greater expence than that of taking thirty-two men, his business being only to secure his voyage: for which purpose he also took with him a parcel of marine cloaths and other things, to make a shew of men answerable to the force of his ship, in case of meeting with an enemy. He had the good fortune to succeed in this device a very few days after he set sail. In his passage from London to Gibraltar, off Cape-Finisterre, at break of day, we fell in with a Spanish privateer of twenty-four guns; and seeing her a ship of force, and full of men, Mr. Walker immediately ordered our marines on deck, who wanted no breast-work between them and the enemy,

enemy, either to conceal their number, or in reality to save them from their fire. Thus setting up all the hand-spikes and other provided utensils, and dressing them in the marine cloaths, and also exercising the boatswain's call, in the highest notes, as is usual in king's ships, we made all apparent and indeed real preparations of engaging: our fictitious soldiery not being in our way, in case of an engagement, and serving at first to intimidate the enemy. Upon one of our officer's saying with some humour, if we came too near with our scheme, the enemy might be too well pleased in understanding the joke, Mr. Walker made answer; "Do you but fire well your guns, and the smoke will befriend you; especially if we have an enemy of spirit, who will fire theirs: if not, the

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wooden men will take them off themselves." However at the droll appearance of this equipment, Mr. Walker could not help often breaking off, in the midst of his orders, into fits of laughter: which were as heartily seconded by the whole crew. This very much took off the sense of the great danger we were in, and so spirited the men, that, as we were well gunned, we had certainly not fallen an easy prey to the Spaniard in case of his engaging us; for never sure so small a number of men expected the attack of a superior enemy with less concern, or more in wit and spirits. All things, nevertheless, being well ordered and prepared for the worst event, it being our place to appear the challengers, Mr. Walker lay by for the enemy, they being to windward; and ordered

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ed a gun of defiance to be fired, athwart their forefoot, by way of offering them battle. This the Spaniard did not return, nor yet did he seem resolved to decline the contest; but still kept us company for two days; we pursuing our way, and he hovering on us in the wind: at last he disappeared, assuredly mistaking us for a greater force than we were.

When we arrived at South-Carolina, Mr. Walker was disappointed by the cargo's not being ready, which he expected. Whereupon he went to North-Carolina; and there being informed, that their coasts had been infested by two Spanish privateers, which had greatly obstructed and injured their trade, and that they were at present unprotected by any of his Majesty's fleet, he offered his ship for the government's service, to act in

the defence of their coasts, and for the protection of their trade. His proposals being gladly accepted, terms were agreed on, the men put all at wages as in the king's ships, and his complement made up to an hundred and thirty. Mr. Walker, tho' commander, entered himself a volunteer; an example so well approved, that several gentlemen of the country, entered on board as volunteers also.

In July we set out on a four months cruise, to extend as far southwards as St. Augustin, the next port to Georgia; and northwards, as far as the cape of Virginia. We soon restored the trade of the country to its former quiet, having, in a short time, intirely cleared the coasts of privateers: the two Spanish ships above-mentioned having quitted their cruise, as we suppose, upon receiving some intelligence of

of our fitting out. We could fall in with nothing which would stay for us upon the seas; and in this whole cruise only retook the Neptune, captain Darby, who had been taken by the above privateers. Mr. Walker finding that the Spaniards had their place of rendezvous at Okrekoke, an island upon the coast of North-Carolina, which they took possession of by claim of arms, and had there erected a fort of six guns, we went ashore, and demolished the battery and fortifications; so that the Spaniards never returned during our stay on that station, which intirely broke their plan of privateering in those seas.

With this success only, the cruise ended; by which time a king's ship was sent to take station on the coast. Upon our return, governor Gabriel Johnston, and the whole assembly of

the place, had an occasional meeting, in which public thanks, in the name of the governor and assembly, were ordered to be returned to Mr. Walker for his great services in the protection of their trade ; and indeed every mark of respect, both outward and private, were shewn him by the gentlemen of the country, who often made offer to him of writing home to the lords of the admiralty, and asking in a collective body, a king's ship for him ; a favour which he declined, as he knew that by the rules of the navy, a man must have served in it two years before he can obtain a command. Their friendship then would have secured his stay amongst them, by a further offer of a large tract of land, which they had power of presenting him by a complimentary use of their law in his favour. As a man is
there

there intitled to fifty acres of land for every servant whom he brings with him, under his command, to settle in the country ; so they absolutely offered him six thousand five hundred acres as an inducement to him, to settle among them rating each man, under his command in the ship as a servant at the time, intitling him to the usual claim. This indulgence also was then refused, as incompatible with his other pursuits of life. That posterity will in a few years wonder at this and the like refusals, may be easily foreseen ; when an estate of like extent may be of such significance in esteem, as to dignify its possessor with respected honours, in perhaps one of the finest countries of the world.

As generosity founded on gratitude is one of the most distinguishing vir-

tues, I could not be less particular in shewing, that it is a plant which already flourishes in our infant colonies.



CHAP.

C H A P. II.

The loss of the Duke William at sea,
in her passage home from North-
Carolina.

THE cruise being over, and
the coast otherways defend-
ed, our men were reduced to their
former number, and Mr. Walker set
sail on his trading voyage to Barba-
does. There he lay four months for
a cargo ; and thence sailed Octo-
ber 31, 1742, in company with the
captains Staples, Chambers, and Bur-
rows, who put themselves under
our convoy. The first night after we
left Barbadoes, captain Burrows lost
company ; but the captains Staples
and Chambers continued with us, till
the 12th of December, and then they
also

also were parted from us in a storm. In this hurricane, which was very violent, we sprung one of our butts, or planks of the ship. Being then two hundred leagues to the westward of Scilly, and the ship making a great deal of water, we soon became in great distress, both our pumps going night and day. What added much to our affliction was Mr. Walker's ill state of health, who had not been out of his bed for three weeks before, on account of the bloody flux; and was thereby reduced to such a lowness of spirits as to be scarce able to give any direction, our surgeon having given over all hopes of his life. Our officers and men were at first for throwing the the boat and all the guns over board, in order to ease the ship: this expedient was executed reserving two of the guns, kept by Mr. Walker's order
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to make signals, and the boat, which he insisted they should not part with. In other particulars the scheme was fulfilled. The storm continuing, the leak daily encreased from the fourteenth to the seventeenth, and our men being quite fatigued, and not able to stand to the pumps, despairing of all succour, (for it was not in our utmost power to keep the ship above water twelve hours longer, she having, notwithstanding our incessant labour, eight feet of water in her hold), some of the officers and crew agreed to take to the boat, as the last refuge for their lives; thinking themselves happy in having it preserved for them to this end. Mr. Walker, who, notwithstanding his illness, insisted on being regularly informed of every circumstance of the ship, now ordered himself to be taken out of his bed, and
carried

carried upon deck. He there represented to them the impossibility of the boat's being able to hold above one half of the people ; and demonstrated that in all probability she must be devoured by the waves, the sea still running mountains high. He therefore assured them, " Their only hopes must be that providence would send some sail to their assistance ; and the longer they kept the ship from sinking, the greater was the probability of their being preserved : that even if a sail did appear, the most they could expect from their boat would be to transport them, from one ship to the other." This argument with grief finding way to their conviction, they applied themselves with double diligence to the pumps : but no relief appearing, and the men being again intirely spent, the argument on the
other

other side seemed to prevail, of taking to our boat, as the only tho' sad expedient for the instant to fly to; the people saying, "that if half might be spared, better that half should be saved than all should perish." Nay some who were over-fatigued with labour, or judged there was as little chance of safety in the boat as in the ship, declared, "they would not press to the boat, as they would as lief sink in the one as in the other." During the time in which we were fixing the tackle aloft, for hoisting out the boat, being about two o'clock in the afternoon, we spied a sail off the weather-quarter. Every man was now again alive, and for living as long as another. Mr. Walker, who still continued upon deck, with uncommon spirits, rather gaining strength than sinking, as was expected under his illness,

illness, ordered all the signals of distress to be made, by hoisting a flag up side down, at the top-mast-head, and firing our guns. The ship, perceiving our signals, drew near to us; and how anxious, yet pleasing were the moments of seeing our deliverance, come more and more in view! But, at length, she discovering us a ship of war, and apprehensive of an intent in us to decoy her, all at once hauled her wind, and got from us as fast as she could. Night now coming on, and the storm continuing, our distress was again renewed with double feelings, if possible, of our misery. Aghastly silence for some minutes prevailed each man beholding the surprize and sorrow in the countenance of his disappointed brother; when Mr. Walker gave orders for the mizen mast, to be immediately cut by the board.

They

They who first received his orders not readily seeing its intent, made some scruple in executing it: at last, the thought like a flash of lightning breaking upon the minds of the whole ship, it was in an instant down. This the other ship at a distance observing, their attention being again drawn to us by a second firing of our guns, and being thereby convinced of the reality of our distress, she directly bore down to our assistance. But how greatly did the surprize heighten the joy of our approaching deliverance, when Mr. Walker, having his glass in his hand, cried out, "Good God! 'tis my worthy friend captain Burrows," for there was a particular love and friendship subsisting between them. This was the same gentleman who had lost company of us the first night after we left Barbadoes; and whom
since

since then we had never seen, till this critical moment of our fate. Having been chased the evening before, by a Spanish privateer, he altered his course in the night to get rid of her; and was thus providentially set right into the road to our deliverance, and his own.

Captain Burrows, on the true discovery of us, was as ready on his side to do us every eager act of friendship: but had no boat proper to send to our help, his largest having been washed over board some days before in the storm, and the other which was left, being too small to live in the present sea; so that we were solely to trust to our own; and had she not been providentially at first preserved to us by the authority of Mr. Walker, or been afterwards taken away by any of the officers and crew, as was endeavoured

deavoured, all or the part that remained, must now have perished in the very sight of our friends, unprovided to relieve us. The boat being obliged to go twice with our people, as the days were short, and so little residue of light left, the sea running still very high, it was with the utmost difficulty we all got on board; which, however, we did under the great will of providence, without the loss of one man. The expressions of thanks to that providence, and of joy in meeting our countrymen and friends, as ordained to be the means of this deliverance, were not long abated, before the moon rising, as it were, on purpose to light us to the prospect, we saw with a renewal of some melancholly, our ship go down: which was in less than two hours from our quitting her, we being then
2 about

about one hundred and seventy leagues westward of Scilly, December the seventeenth. However, we were soon cheered in the reflection of our own escape; and Mr. Walker's surprising recovery added to the present satisfaction of that safety. From the moment he was lifted from his bed, he every hour after increased in health and strength: owing in all probability to the sudden exertion of his spirits, and turn of blood on the occasion.

But the visible designs of providence to us all, at this juncture, were not over. Mr. Burrow's ship also in the same storm had sprung a small leak, which next day after our joining him visibly encreased; and in two days after, by the time our men had somewhat recovered the use of their limbs, was so great as to give employment to all hands: so that
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if a less number had been on board, she must inevitably have gone to the bottom. As it was, we did a second time but just escape; the same preserving hand, which directed her to our deliverance, in the same act designing her relief by the additioned number of our men.

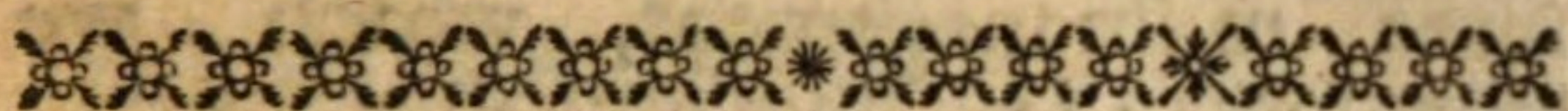
In this condition, we in five days after made Scilly, being the first land; and got in safe, to stop her leak: for which purpose we were obliged to lay there eight days. We then came round the land, and January the first 1742-3, arrived at Dover: from whence Mr. Walker took chaise, and went to London. Here a new misfortune happened to him: for the insurance that had been regularly carried on for his concern in the said ship, which was very considerable, was by some mistake, neglected to be re-

newed but two months before his arrival. Thus we may say, he at land a second time lost his said ship, and all his property in her.

The journals having been lost with the ship, we could not be so particular in the relation of some circumstances, especially as to time, as might otherwise be expected from us. The like excuse we must also make in regard to the next following cruise but one; as the very same reason, tho' not with the like misfortune, subsists also there.



VOYAGE



V O Y A G E II.

THE RUSSIA-MERCHANT.

C H A P. III.

Voyage to Gottenburgh and Cronstadt, near Petersburgh. Three remarkable executions there.

AS there is a year's chasm, between the loss of the Duke William and Mr. Walker's taking on him the command of another ship of war, in which time he was not idle, we will just give an account how he employed the year, till the breaking out of the French war: lest other

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people

people may be taught to believe, that some mismanagement, which we wanted to hide, was the cause of our leaving out any part of his life, during the war. In this space some occurrences happened, new in their nature, which we will venture to give to the reader, in excuse for taking up his time in noting the transactions of the year.

After the loss of the said ship, Mr. Walker's former joint owners, Mr. Robert Macky (a gentleman, to whom Mr. Walker is under the greatest obligations, as a friend to him even at this day) and Mr. William Vigor, joined him in the purchase of a very fine snow, about one hundred and thirty tons, called the *Russia-Merchant*, to be employed in the Peterburgh or Baltic trade; in which she made three trips within the year.

The

The first was from London, in March 1743 to Gottenburgh in Sweden, and back again in June following: but this produced no incident worth recounting.

On the twenty-eighth of the same month, he sailed upon his second voyage to Petersburgh; and in the following month arrived at that city. During his stay in the country, he was spectator of a very remarkable execution, viz. of several noblemen and ladies of the first rank and quality: who were sentenced to be broke on the wheel, for a conspiracy against the present Empress Elizabeth. These very persons were the instruments, but the year before, of bringing her, as the daughter of the late Peter the Great, to the throne, by the best-laid plan that ever produced so great a revolution of government; and this

without one drop of blood being spilt on the occasion. But she taking, as they thought, other and new favourites to be more near her person, as assistants to her in the direction of affairs of state, these unhappy persons associated in a conspiracy of poisoning her; in which the French ambassador, Chetardie, was said to have been the actuating instigator, though he turned traitor to his confederates, the evening before the intended treason. This affair was afterwards more fully disclosed by our English Lord Tyrawly, who was sent plenipotentiary to that court. This nobleman by getting at the Frenchman's papers, and other detections, set him forth to the Empress in his true light; and had him sent home in the utmost disgrace: the empress only allowing him a scanty time, even to take refreshment, thro'

thro' her dominions. The person who was next to suffer execution was a priest, a man of seeming great address and politeness : he was said to be one of the highest sense and understanding. His crime was that of introducing a kind of schism in their church, which is of the Greek persuasion, differing little from the Roman catholic faith, except in the two points of transubstantiation, and supremacy of papal authority. The new method he substituted was in the manner of crossing themselves, the usual way being with the two first fingers and thumb, representing the trinity ; whereas he taught the crossing with one only, representing the all-sufficiency of one God ; which was understood by his brother-priests as a lessening the other two persons of the Hypostatical union. The third was

a merchant, or commissioner; who having been trusted by the government, as agent in some department, had been found guilty of embezzling the public money; this being held amongst them a crime of the highest nature. At the place of execution, as is usual, they beat a drum to demand silence; and then each person's crimes were proclaimed to the populace. After this ceremony was performed, and whilst the directors and state-criminals were preparing, the one to perform, and the other to suffer the sentence passed, the Empress's special pardon came down, excusing the severity of death, but in its place ordering the punishment of knouting, their tongues to be cut out, and their persons banished to Siberia. The knouting is a kind of whipping with an instrument like a single-hand-

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ed flail; with which the operating proficient can, in two or three strokes at the most, cut the patient to death, when the sentence so directs. But here the seeming rigour of the orders was even greatly lessened in the performance, the stripes being laid on their naked backs more out of ignominy than punishment; and the ceremony of cutting out their tongues being got over by a small part taken off, so as to be more an inconvenience at the time than hindrance to their speaking; except as to one lady, who made some great struggles in defence of that member: so that the executioner was obliged to exert a little violence, and in using his opportunity, took off a larger share than perhaps he intended; or she, by her indignation at him when done, seemed willing to part with. They were all im-

mediately put together in vehicles, without regard to sex or distinction, and sent out of the city, on their banishment.

As the priest's offence was against the church only, he had no advocates there to speak for mercy. He bore his sentence, which was beheading, with an undaunted intrepidity, from his first advancing on the scaffold to his last resignation, affecting, and indeed rivalling the character of a martyr; so that it is more than probable, as he had many profelytes, he obtained his design by making some new disciples among the multitude, to preach his doctrine after him.

The last business was of all the most moving, that of the agent to the government; to whom all hopes of a reprieve were cut off: defrauding of the government being there equal to clipping

clipping of coin amongst us. He did not discover any want of the powers of a man, to bear him up thro' this last trial : but the affecting scene arose in the interview of taking leave between him and his wife : for she attended him even to this tragic stage. She was, beyond representing it, the living picture of sorrow ; and her whole address was very tender. When sinking down from him under the heart-breaking pain of the last embrace, she felt an end of all ; for she first met the stroke of death ; never more recovering from her swoon. His sudden agonies on the occasion were very striking, and a more heightened tragedy than imitation ever represented on fiction's stage. He hastened to his death, and we to close the scene.

C H A P. IV.

Voyage to Copenhagen. The public entrance of the princess Louisa. An account of an English prisoner there. A melancholly accident on the ice. And Mr. Walker's return to London.

MR. Walker, having returned from Petersburgh to London in October, again set sail on his third voyage, and arrived at Copenhagen in the middle of November following. As he was here made prisoner by the season, his ship being froze up, we will also detain the reader for a while in the amusements that intervened. The weather here, notwithstanding the strength of the frost, is extremely clear and pleasant; nor is the cold at
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all disagreeably sharp, rather enlivening the spirits than giving any shuddering checks of inaction to the body. But it was remarkably serene and temperate, as if Nature joined in the universal joy, when the princess Louisa made her public entrance on her marriage with the prince of Denmark, the present king; which for so great respect shewn an English princess, cannot help being mentioned by an English spectator of it. She appeared drest in her marriage robes in an open chariot, or rather a triumphal car, designed on purpose in the richest taste of grandeur and ornament, and drawn by six white horses in very superb trappings. The prince's sister sat with her in the chariot, and the prince himself rode before them on horse-back, so rich in dress and his number of foot attendants,

tendants, as to perplex the view where to fix on the chief object of its admiration. Not an house in the great streets, thro' which they passed, but was covered with hangings of tapestry, or whole pieces of velvet, tacked on the columns or piers, richly or fancifully bordered, with other ornaments of pictures, or carvings with occasional designs above and under the windows; and at the end of each of the streets were triumphal arches erected of various and beautiful architecture, with decorations of paintings, gildings, and flowers: in all of which were placed, the arms of England and Denmark joined, and soft musick of flutes or hautboys, to play as the procession passed below. This with the number of led and attending equipages, most of which were intirely new, and grand, with the army, and various
bands

bands of martial instruments, great officers and ensigns of state, was a sight of splendor and magnificence, that fully satisfied the eager sense of expectation. The first coach of the officers who preceded, reached the palace at eleven o' clock; and the last of the nobility's, who all followed according to their rank and dignity, did not get up till past nine: so long was the procession, and so numerous the attendants. The jubilee, as we may call it, held for a full week. In which time all public diversions were afloat, and every noble's private table a public entertainment, while several fountains before their doors flowed for the populace with wine. Every day the guns were discharged quite round the town; which as the city is walled round, and of a regular figure, with their successive firings circulated

circulated on the ear in a pleasing exactness. Every night were constant illuminations throughout the whole city; and the ships in the harbour were also the whole time lighted out with the greatest fancy, and from their reflected lustre outvied the land. In short, the whole, from the highest noble to the lowest plebeian, was an elegant and polite expression of mutual congratulation and public joy.

A very remarkable person was then at Copenhagen, who had been kept a prisoner in an iron cage. Mr. Walker went to see him: he was a gentleman of Lancashire, esteemed a man of profound policy. He had been employed by Charles XII. king of Sweden, and particularly trusted by that monarch in acts of bold emprise. His alledged crime against
Denmark,

Denmark, was said to have been an intent to steal away the prince, when a boy, as he rode along the coast, and to have carried him an hostage to Sweden, which was then at variance with Denmark. But his real design, which he confessed, was to have raised an insurrection in favour of his royal master, to forward his designs of an invasion upon England. Being detected in his attempt, he was, under the forementioned pretensions, imprisoned by the state. He afterwards had made his escape, and got to Hamburg, where he boasted, that all Denmark had not a cage able to hold him. But, with all his cunning, being seduced by some of his acquaintance, who betrayed him, to walk out of one of the towns, near to which some territories of the Danes belonged; he was, insensibly to himself, led on Danish ground,

ground, and there arrested, and brought back to Denmark ; which was the reason of his having been so caged. He had been in his cage upwards of eleven years, but at this time was let out into a large room. He had wrote several volumes of anecdotes and annals : but as he was a great bigot to party, none of his performances have been allowed to trouble mankind. During his long confinement, which had then lasted upwards of thirty years, he never had one hour's illness ; and had let his beard grow to a venerable length, reaching to the middle of his thighs. As a memorandum of himself, he would sometimes give to a person he liked a single hair of it, by way of a present : and it was really no little curiosity, being quite of a silver whiteness. Among the various amusements, which

which enabled him to pass his time alone, he dwelt with great fondness on the history of a mouse ; which grew so familiar with him in his cage, as to come regularly to be fed by him, or attend him at his call, and divert him for hours in play, as he lay down to it. At length growing sick with age, it stayed by him till it died, and expired in his beard, where he had wrapped it up for warmth. He had it buried under his cage, being a ground floor, and wrote a treatise on it ; shewing the sagacity of animals, and their desire of intimacy with man.

As a parallel case I have been told, or read a story of a man, who was kept a prisoner in a Turkish government for many years : when the Bascha of the place often taking occasion of asking the officers, how the man diverted himself in his lonely hours,
was

was at last informed by one of them, that he had taken notice of his diverting himself, several hours together in a day, with a spider; which frequently descended to him from over his head, to be fed and played with; which, when touched below, ran himself up by his thread; and so again came down, as pleased with the diversion. The prince ordered the officer to plant him so as to behold the scene. “O Sir, says the officer, I immediately, upon being convinced of the amusement, went in upon them, and killed the spider.” “Did you so, says the prince? Then he shall be more reasonably diverted, and you go in his place; and, I hope, find the happiness of making such an acquaintance:” so he released the prisoner, and put the giddy, if not cruel officer in his room.

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He mentioned several secret actions of past time, as facts of his own knowledge ; which would be worth notice, could we introduce them in place. But the more surprising historian was a gentleman, a native of Norway, Baron Holberg, then one hundred and twenty-three years of age, in a public office of the king's revenue at Copenhagen, having all his senses and faculties perfect as in youth, except his hearing. The king had his picture in his curiosity-chamber. Mr. Walker was introduced into his company ; he was very entertaining in conversation, had been in England the greater part of his youth, and was a spectator of the death of king Charles I. Had some of our modern historians been so fortunate as to have happened on this acquaintance, they had informed themselves better of some circumstances.

cumstances regarding that catastrophe, and have done more justice to the character of that misguided king.

One of the winter amusements in this country, both of the genteel and common people, is the exercise of sliding on the ice. The genteel people have here, but more frequently in other places of Germany, sledges or vehicles without wheels, richly ornamented and painted, drawn by a single horse, which is generally covered with trappings of embroidered velvet, or other rich furniture. In this kind of chariot they set the lady, whilst the gentleman stands close to her behind, with the reins brought round the sides, and drives. These vehicles run either in the snow upon land, or on the ice; and whole parties of gentlemen and ladies go out together a-pleasuring in them. A
melan-

melancholly accident happened among the common sort, who were scating just by Mr. Walker's ship, after their custom, in a string of men and women, holding each other by the hand. In this manner they often make sweeps, or circles, all bearing up together, of great circumference; and sometimes the leader still running in a lesser and lesser circle, till he makes a stand, the rest winde round him, till they become an exact round or circle. Then the last man throwing himself out as leader, they will all again regularly unwind, and go off in various meanderings, very pleasing to be seen, and certainly of great entertainment to themselves; as from the good spirits the exercise puts them into, they always seem very gay and happy. But as mischance will often interrupt diversion, as fools spoil conversation,

versation, the foremost scater in one of these exercises, ridiculously threw himself down all of a sudden, tripping the next scater over him, which threw down the next, and so successively one tumbling in an heap over the other, till the force of their falling all in one spot broke the ice, and down the whole unhappy party went, in the midst of their mirth, to the number of about thirty. This was an accident, of which the like had not been known to have happened before, and was very deplorable in the confusion and lamentations of the by-standers; many of whom had some friend, relation, or child, in the calamity. I hope I shall not be thought by our ladies of England, to give too many examples of good wives from among the women of these more northern countries, in just
mention-

mentioning two instances. One of them, who saw her husband thus swallowed in her presence, ran instantly mad, beating herself upon the ice in vain endeavours of breaking it, in search and relief of him; and, in a continued delirium, expired some time afterwards. Another, who was absent from the accident, in melancholly deliberation put herself to death with her husband's sword, leaving a formal letter to her daughter, who was then about eighteen, with arguments which we must own too refined, "that no good wife can survive the loss of a good husband." The poor girl also died in about a month after, with inconsolable grief, at the loss of her parents: but it was said, she had a further loss also of a lover in the disastrous croud.

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Left, in the above relation, I may do myself an injury with the younger fair ones, as I profess being a bachelor, in gaining if not the censure, or even anger, yet the ridicule of the good wives of England, I must speak here for myself—which is perhaps the only place where I shall take the freedom in the whole history—that tho' every writer is not obliged to give his sentiments of those facts he relates, yet I will venture in this case at delivering mine. “Those actions which are the effects of a violence of passion, prove the mind to be too suddenly actuated, and reason too weak to rule. So all that can be inferred from any comparison must be, that, as there is not one instance to the contrary, our English ladies have the advantage over the greater part of

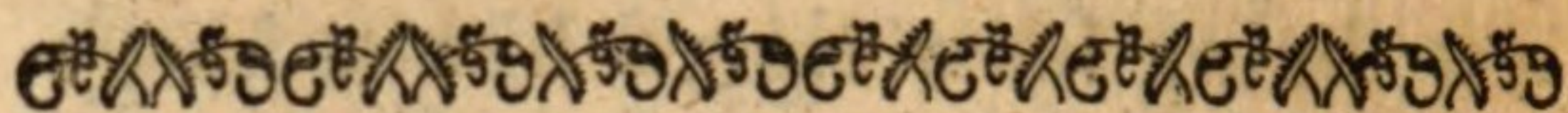
of their own sex, in having more judgment."—To give them a further proof of it, a misguided reason will run the system of woman into the same errors, where a weak one leaves them. Thus I have been assured by a spectator of the action, that in some of the isles belonging to the East-Indies, at the funerals of their men, whose bodies are always burnt, the poor enthusiastic wife, young and beautiful, has leapt unobliged to it, into the flames with an eager desire of uniting herself again to the embraces of her lord.

When winter's prisoners were all set free, Mr. Walker again set sail, and went to Gottenburgh, April 2d, 1744. At this time news came of the Toulon engagement. The French war being thereupon immediately declared, and every day's suc-

ceeding accounts bringing word of the number of small French privateers in those seas, catching up all our ships thereabouts (as they had long before lain ready to sail, waiting only for the word) he was under some uneasiness how to get home; for there was no opportunity of convoy. He therefore had no course of safety to chuse, but in stratagem. He remembered his former scheme of adding a mockery of men to his ship the Duke William: but then she was really a ship of force. Here he had no more than four guns, and nothing that looked military: whereupon, as casting cannon there might be expensive and tedious, he got a most compleat set of wooden guns, finely modelled; which he painted of a true metaline colour, and fixing nettings or tarpolins upon the quarters, set her out in

in appearance even to a near eye a ship of war, being now rigged like a king's sloop. Under these false colours he sailed out of port on a venture home-wards; and off Cromarty met a privateer, who gave chase. He finding her come up, put about on her, hoisted ensign, jack, and pendant, and fired a gun as waiting for her: she then thought proper to make the best of her way to sea. In the run home he met also several small privateers, like birds, scudding about the seas; who all scoured from him at his appearance, as one of greater prey; and he arrived in London May following.





C R U I S E I.

T H E M A R S.

C H A P. V.

The encounters of the Mars private ship of war; her surrender; her being retaken and brought back to England, and Mr. Walker carried into Brest.

IN the year 1744, some gentlemen in London and Dartmouth, acquaintances of Mr. Walker's, fitted out two private ships of war, the Mars and Boscawen. The command of the Mars was offered to Mr. Walker,

Walker, being a fine ship of twenty-six guns, a hundred and thirty men, to sail on a six months cruise, in conjunction with the Boscawen.

In November, both ships set sail from Dartmouth; and the second day after, fell in with a French ship, a king's frigate of twenty-six guns, two hundred and seventy men from Brest, but a much larger vessel. The Mars immediately began to engage her, unassisted by the Boscawen, she once or twice firing, but at such a distance as not to reach the enemy. The engagement, which became very warm, lasted for a full hour and an half; in which, the French having the wind of us, and keeping at a distance, where they have always the best advantage by the expertness of their engineers, very much shattered

our rigging, and wounded our main top-mast. They however having received from our side, as we found afterwards, considerable damage in her hull, set their sails directly for Brest; yet still continued the engagement: we following in a running fight, in which, several broadsides were exchanged, when abreast of each other. At last the enemy getting a-head, left off firing his guns, except only his stern chace; and then intirely run off, being a very prime sailer, and, going much better than we, got clear away into Brest. We then joined our consort, and repaired our rigging. Mr. Walker went on board the Boscawen; and had a private conference with the captain; but was never heard to throw any censure publicly on his behaviour: what was the

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the result of the conference no one knew; but we were soon sensible, that it produced no great effect.

In December following, about twelve o'clock at night, the wind blowing fresh and thick rainy weather, we fell in with two large French ships, and were close upon them before we perceived them. By being so near we heard the enemy in great confusion, knowing them by their language to be French; and, by the fear they seemed to be under, imagined them to be rich Martinico men, homeward bound; and so far it happened true, the terror observed arising from a fear for their riches on board. Accordingly, all night we kept close pursuit, and so continued till eight o'clock next morning; when the weather somewhat clearing, we discovered them to be men of war, the

one of seventy-four and the other of sixty-four guns. The Boscawen immediately went off; whereas had we stood together, he being the larger ship, it was more than probable from after circumstances, that the enemy would have let us retire unmolested: but seeing the Mars alone, and so inferior a ship to them, a signal was given from the larger ship, for the one of sixty-four guns to chase. We then endeavoured as much as possible, to keep a-head to get away; but the enemy gained upon us. When they came almost within musquet shot, Mr. Walker thus addressed himself to us, "Gentlemen I do not mean to be so rash as to attempt a regular engagement with so superior a force: all I ask of you is, to confide in me and my orders, to get away if possible without striking; and be assured, I shall

stroke we wanted ; for tho' it is a received opinion, that firing the stern guns helps a ship forwards in her sailing ; yet if she be obliged to winde, or as the term is, yaw about, to bring her guns to take aim, which was our case, it must stop her way for the time, and retard the escape. This was certainly the consequence to us of our strong desire to repeat our fire at the enemy ; which made our running just a-head appear to them, rather an artful way of engaging to avoid their broadsides, than a flying before them ; which last in fact it was ; and brought up also the other larger ship, which had still kept after in the pursuit ; and, by the above delay, had now so far gained upon us, as almost to hem us in between them. In this situation they both run out their lower tier : whereupon Mr. Walker

Walker with a smile, said—"Well, gentlemen, we do not strike to one ship only"—and ordered down the colours.

Tho' the usual ceremony and greater honour was to have gone aboard the commodore, yet Mr. Walker chose to surrender himself to the ship he fought: therefore taking his proper officers with him, and giving some directions to those who were to follow, he ordered out his barge, and went aboard the sixty-four gun ship, which was the *Florissant*, and the other of seventy-four guns, the *Neptune*. When he came on board, being conducted to the French commander, a man of seeming rank and figure, he delivered up to him his sword and commission: but the reception on the part of the French officer, to our great wonder, was not answering the politeness ex-

pected from the nation in general. The French captain, who spoke English well, asking him in an high tone, "How dare you, Sir, in so small a ship, fire against a force like me?" To which Mr. Walker answered, "Sir, if you'll look at that commission, you will find I had as good a right to fight as you; and if my force had not been so inferior to yours, I had shewn you more civil treatment on board my ship." "How many men have I killed of yours?" says the French officer. "None at all, Sir," replied Mr. Walker. "Then sir, says he, you have killed six of mine and wounded several; you fire pieces of glass." Mr. Walker assured him of the contrary: however, his treatment was little altered for the better; but the officers took all opportunities of doing Mr. Walker, and his officers several acts of civility. Mr. Walker

Walker and his lieutenants had indeed the liberty of the quarter-deck ; but no accommodation was as yet provided for his bed or table, distinct from the rest. In a few days, the affair of the glass, which had given such offence, was thoroughly set to rights ; the mistake having happened from an Irish sailor, who had been fixed at one of the stern guns aboard the Mars. This honest tar, finding the ship under a necessity of striking, humorously took a parcel of shillings out of his pocket—about sixteen—and swearing, “ that sooner than the French rascals should plunder him of all he had in the world, he would first send it amongst them, and see what a bribe would do,”—so wrapping it up in a piece of rag, rammed it into his gun, which was the last that was fired. This scattering thro’ the rigging over the
heads

heads of the men, occasioned the foregoing supposition, which was thus set to rights, to the satisfaction of the whole ship.

It was on a Friday we went on board the *Florissant*. At break of day, on the Sunday morning following, we saw four sail of large ships astern; which greatly alarmed the French, especially as their gaining ground upon us was every half hour more and more visible. This panic of the French arose, as before, from their concern for the great value of their cargo, bringing home all the French and Spanish treasure from the West-Indies, to the amount of near four millions sterling; besides, their ships were in no order for fighting, coming so long a voyage; and they likewise were very sickly on board. In less than two hours, we could plainly

plainly perceive the four ships astern to be English men of war. The French crowded all the sail they could, to get away. Whilst the English were in pursuit of us, the captain of the *Florissant*, who had by this time become more familiar with Mr. Walker, addressed himself to him to this effect, “That if it had not been for the trouble Mr. Walker had given him, by obliging him to go out of his course, he might be now further on his way, out of the reach of the ships in view ; and said, he at the time thought it ill judged of his commodore to give the signal for chasing, considering his treasure on board ;” of which he made no secret. “It is seldom, says he, any great accident happens from single causes, but by a chain or series of things : thus, if we be here overcome, our loss will be owing to the waspish-
ness,

ness, as he called it, of a single frigate, which would not cease fighting so long as it had a sting in its tail." This being said, tho' peevishly, with some pleasantry, and being more compliment than otherwise, was received by us all with equal ease: we had certainly no reason to be out of temper, as the scene of fortune was now clearing up in our favour; for the English drew near. The ships were the Hampton-Court, Dreadnought, Sunderland, and Captain. The French officer on board the Mars judiciously bore away to the leeward, in order to draw off one of the ships in pursuit of him. This had the intended effect; for his majesty's ship the Captain sailed off in chase of him, and retook him; but did not afterwards return to the fleet, so our ship the Mars was brought back to England.

England. The Sunderland lost her main-top-mast in coming up, by which she fell astern; but the Hampton-Court of seventy guns, and Dreadnought of sixty a little astern of her, came up along side by sun-set. As an engagement now appeared unavoidable on every side, the captain of the Florissant again with great politeness spoke to Mr. Walker and us to quit the quarter-deck, saying, that “He hoped we would excuse the necessity of things: but as an engagement was expected, it was not usual to admit strangers on their decks.” Mr. Walker answered, “Sir, I go off with great pleasure on the occasion; as I am now certain of my liberty; and I hope to have the satisfaction of seeing you again in being.” We were then all conducted to the Cock-pit, where we discovered the
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sad situation of the ship indeed ; here being above one hundred and ninety of her people then lying sick, unable to stir ; so that their confusion was very great. But no engagement beginning that evening, Mr. Walker was very soon called up. All that night and the next day, the French kept on their way, and the Hampton-Court, and Dreadnought closely followed ; when the second evening coming on the English altogether disappeared. As this affair has been already settled under the sanction of a court-martial, we refer to that better examination of the cause of such proceedings. During this time, the captain of the Florissant every now and then sent for one or more of us, to refresh ourselves in the air. By which opportunity, the fears and terrors of the French, unprovided as they were for an engagement, could be

be distinguished at every new expectation of the English beginning to engage. But when no enemy appeared on the morning of the second day, nothing then but boasting of their superior courage to the English was to be heard, even from the captain himself, to the most inferior in the ship; which could not be heard without some little indignation on our part, especially of Mr. Walker; who was before so sure of his liberty, and underwent a very genteel *memorandum* of it from the captain. However, as an inward approbation of themselves and country, in comparison with others, is very natural to all people, and more apparent in us than in any one country of the earth, we had nothing to be really offended at; the French in general behaving to us with great humanity and

and politness, especially the captain, who now grew so fond of Mr. Walker's company, that he would not dine without him, and some one of his officers of Mr. Walker's own chusing. He even shared part of the state-cabin with him, where he had a bed brought in on purpose for his accommodation. With these douceurs our time passed on more easy; and giving up all views of any new deliverance, as we were now in sight of the French coast, we contented ourselves with the expectation of seeing Brest, the finest port in France; to which we were bound, and where we arrived in January 1744-5.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

Mr. Walker's recovery of his own and officers liberty at Brest; and his return from thence to England.

AS we came into the bay without the harbour of Brest, we met the French Frigate whom we engaged in the Mars coming out from being refitted. He had had his bowsprit dangerously wounded, so as to be almost carried away, and his starboard quarters stove in; some men killed, but a great many wounded, whom we afterwards went to see in the hospital. He had reported upon his engaging of us, that, "He had fought two English men of war of fifty guns, and had got clear, one of them

them having sheered off. This kind of boasting we are sure to smile at, in foreigners ; but seldom are so unfavourable to our own national glory to detect it in ourselves. It certainly is a kind of spirit, constituent of the French genius : but as they are a people of great policy, is so far allowable, as they thereby stimulate one another to imitate such acts of valour, however they may be misrepresented.

The next morning Mr. Walker, fearing the distemper which began to grow violent amongst the French, might be caught by our men, applied to the captain, to have us set on shore immediately ; which by his interest with him, he effected by four o' clock in the evening. This was a great favour, it being Sunday : But it was with much greater difficulty, and as good providence, he persuaded

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his friend the captain, for so I may justly call him, to let him come with us ; in which favour to himself he was long denied. “ What is there, said the captain, (for I was very near him,) that I have been deficient in as a gentleman, to render my accommodation not quite agreeable to you? Or what is there I can do to make it more so? Stay but till to-morrow, and I will take you with me to the governor, and introduce you to every man of consequence of the place. You shall be free ; nothing shall break-in upon your liberty, but the prejudiced notion you have got of it in England.” Mr. Walker urging, with many acknowledgments of his favours, that his sole desire of going proceeded from a duty of which he could not even in opinion divest himself, of seeing his men accommodated. “ Well then,

then, says the French captain, you shall not go, till I write two lines by you to the governor:" which giving Mr. Walker, and taking leave with the utmost politeness, we thought it an happiness to gain permission of setting foot on French ground, as prisoners, with our leader at our head. And here I could not help observing the power of self-recommendation, in the change of behaviour of a few days, between the first meeting of those gentlemen and the taking leave, a leave, as it happened, for ever.

Mr. Walker immediately proceeded to the governor of the town, who receiving the letter from the French captain, told him, he was at his liberty on parole, and any one or two of his officers he chose for his companions: but Mr. Walker, who hoped his credentials were more unlimited, making

making answer, " Sir, if I have not my principal officers with me, I can enjoy but little pleasure in the liberty you bestow me ; he, with almost an obliging condescension, granted permission for his having all his officers, to the number of ten, on Mr. Walker's parole, to go with him, where he pleased, into the town or country ; but not by themselves.----I cannot help being particular in these circumstances, both as it was a great happiness we received, and ought with gratitude to mention ; and which every Englishman must with pleasure hear ; but also, as it may help to remove the bad prejudices we generally entertain of all other countries but our own ; which have sometimes prevented our using them, in like circumstances, so well as we would do, did we think they deserved to be used as well as they do.

An universal rejoicing was made, and *Te Deum* ordered to be sung throughout the kingdom, on the arrival of these two important ships; which had brought home the year's store of treasure. Amidst the joy, we were also obliged to hear great boastings made among the men, of their having offered battle to four large English men of war, who refused fighting them. But all this joy was too suddenly overcast!

Mr. Walker having procured his own and officers liberty, and visited the common men in their prisons; where he settled the manner of supplying them with necessaries, and got them the best apartments in the place, now brought us all to a public house or inn, to refresh himself and us with supper; where he agreed with the cook at a rate exceeding the king's allowance,

allowance, for a particular table for himself and us. The cook, who was also master of the house, with great alacrity agreed to provide every accommodation to make us easy ; and told us humorously, “ he could make de good roat beef for us, and de good plumb-pudding too.” And he kept his word ; for, to say the truth, there could not be a better table, or more reasonable, than he constantly provided.

The very next day, whilst Mr. Walker was writing at our inn, to the French captain, to beg him to send him his letter of credit, which was in a box with his commission, the people came running into the house, all in terror and lamentation ! with cries, that “ The Florissant had blown up ; and all the crew were destroyed with her.” Upon our running out, we

found the accident too true in fact; tho' not exactly related. The gunner having taken out the powder, and gone ashore with it, had left in a private part of the magazine, four barrels, for salutes, as he said. The men sweeping together the loose powder, which had been scattered from the starting of their cartridges into the casks, and handing down the glass lanthorn, which hung in the gun-room, to the people in the magazine, the handle of it, by some accident broke, and the lamp fell out upon the floor, among the loose powder: which taking fire, and communicating itself to the four barrels, blew up the whole after-part of the ship; in which was the aforesaid polite and good captain, with all the officers and most of the men. The fire afterwards catching the other part of the ship, burnt with
great

great fury. This dismal accident we, tho' an enemy, with great sorrow and tender feeling beheld. As the French are very expressive in all their motions---I would not be supposed to mean they are more tender in their passions---the scene was indeed very melancholly. Each one of the croud, particularly lamenting some friend or relation lost, at the moment they had prepared their welcome to their homes; and all in general condoling the common loss, and public calamity to their country. The men who were yet on board, in the fore-part of the ship alive, cried out for the assistance of boats, and called for mercy of their countrymen, friends, and relations; which, though it might have been easily afforded, was obliged to be denied by those very friends and kinsmen; the weeping spectators only of
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their sad distress ! For the guns, which had not yet been discharged, every minute or two going off, as the fire reached them, made it dangerous to offer assistance : so that their own guns were presented against the breasts of those they called to their relief. Most of the men threw themselves at last into the sea, some few of whom were saved. The ship having burnt to the water's edge, went down with all her treasure ; having unloaded nothing, save part of that burthen which was her greatest pain, and perished in the delivery. Among the many spectators, Mr. Walker appeared to me not the least affected : to see the tear drop at the misfortune of his enemy, the man to whom by chance of war he, but a few days before became a prisoner ; and now lament him as a friend ! made me reflect at
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the hard fate of war, which brings men together with swords directed at each other's breast, ignorant of the worth which either bosom may contain : whereas, had happier opportunity placed them within the knowledge of each other, they had lived like beings of humanity, in tender estimation of their mutual merits.

By a thronged assistance of boats, for the ship was now gone down, several people were saved ; some wanting a limb ; others worse torn in various parts of the body, who had caught hold of the first floating part of the wreck, which accident had helped them to ; fond of preserving life, tho' mutilated of happiness, to be hereafter dragged over the earth in awkwardness and pain ! Among the floating dead bodies, the captain's was easily discovered, tho' very much cut

and burnt; and brought on shore, where it had every mark of honour and respect paid to its former owner, being laid out in great pomp of funeral state; for the captain had been a man of rank and family.

When we returned to our inn, Mr. Walker found we bore a further part in the general loss. His letter of credit being burnt, he now wanted the means of his own and our maintenance. The good cook indeed, equally civil, offered our support, till Mr. Walker could receive an answer to his letters from England.---But other things were required; which being necessary, the want of them would have rendered our stay in a strange country, without money, very disagreeable. He therefore thought it best to keep up his interest, till his credit could arrive; so in the first place
waited

waited on the governor to pay his compliments of condolance on the late fatal accident. The governor received him with his former politeness, at the same time assuring him, he paid such deference to the recommendation of that good officer, so lately and unfortunately gone, that every thing in his power he would do to make him and his whole company happy in their situation. And he was just to his word. The first respect shewn Mr. Walker, in consequence of this, was an invitation to attend as a mourner the funeral of the deceased captain, which was very grand and solemn. This introduced him to the notice of the principal men of the place; most of whom endeavoured to express proofs of their favour, in invitations to their houses, and other acts of civility; which again gave him

an interest with many of them, and this again he employed in general to the service of his friends and countrymen : so that several gentlemen and others, whom Mr. Walker had knowledge of in England were thro' his means, and at his instance and request, set at liberty, to the amount of above sixty persons.

Among the French gentlemen who shewed these indulgences to Mr. Walker, the fiscal, who is the person that settles the cartel, commenced a particular intimacy with him ; which gave Mr. Walker the opportunity of asking him, to put his and his officer's names in the cartel that was then filling up. This request, tho' with some reluctance, he at last yielded to ; whereby Mr. Walker, whose turn for liberty with ours, would not regularly have come round till near a twelve-month,

month, procured the release of himself, his officers, and about sixty of his crew, as well as of some others, particularly one Mr. Coats, captain Harman, and some other English gentlemen who had been passengers or traders.

I cannot help mentioning, that among the prisoners for whom Mr. Walker at first got their liberty on parole, was a peddling Jew, who, by making out a piteous story, introduced himself to his notice and compassion. Mr. Walker had unsuccessfully applied to many merchants there to be supplied with money for bills, who with all the politeness of the French, yet caution of their own country, refused him, all in the same story that credit would be very hard to be found, on account that the secretary to—

lately in much the like circumstances,

had freely found credit for his bills, and that every one of them had come back protested." Thus giddy men often think their bad actions end at the point where they lose sight of them ; but it is not so : the injury they do to those, who intend better, runs often too great a length, by the prejudice and taints they leave in the minds of others. This Jew one day took an opportunity of pulling Mr. Walker by the sleeve, and telling him, " He knew his want of money ; but that he had a bar of gold and forty guineas secreted about him, at his service." These were sewed up in the waist-band of his breeches, which was perhaps the only part of his whole garb that had a regular stitch in it, so miserably was he accoutered in rags and patches. Thus was our generous commander, with all his dependants, relieved by the
poor

poor beggar, who petitioned his humanity but a few days before; which is a lesson to our doing all the good in general we can, as we do not know whence the reward will be, often from the hand least expected. Whether the bar of gold had force or virtue enough to break those of iron, I will not take on me to speak; all I shall say is, that Mr. Walker, after paying the honest cook his bill, who I dare say was as sincere in his professions of sorrow to part with us, as he was in those of joy at seeing our arrival, delivered us off from our state of nine weeks bondage, like Moses's poor brick-making colony to the land of liberty; and was he to have set up a new religion, I dare say the poor Jew would have changed his faith.

Our company, which were enlisted under the direction of Mr. Walker,
were

were about seventy, besides those of the cartel, who were upwards of three hundred. Our journey was to Morlaix, and but two guineas amongst our party, which were in Mr. Walker's pocket, reserved for an addition to our accommodation at the half-way-house; Morlaix being about thirty miles from Brest. When we reached Morlaix the next day, the first thing Mr. Walker did was to go see the cartel ship, as there was so great numbers to go in her. She was one of the licensed vessels from Whitehaven with tobacco, the owner of which had contracted to carry three hundred people: but Mr. Walker at first sight refused to go in her himself, or to let any of his people hazard themselves in her bottom, she being very old and unsafe, not above a hundred and twenty tons, unable to hold one half of
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the number. And as the jail distemper was among the croud of prisoners, Mr. Walker on that account also was resolved not to risque himself or party in her: but seeing a little pleasure yacht lying on the shore, which had been run away with by some French prisoners, who had made their escape in her from Plymouth, and finding upon inquiry she was to be sold, and being told the owner's name, a merchant of great note in the place, he resolved upon purchasing her. "Alas! Sir, cries captain Harman, do you think of purchasing ships without a guinea in your pocket, as we all know the last went for the last night's supper? Rather, sir, set your invention to work how to get us a dinner." "O! says Mr. Walker, the first thing we must do after the purchase is to victual her, and then you may all dine aboard."

Sir,

“Sir, replies Mr. Harman, I fear we shall find a necessity for eating before then, as it may be a work of time before you make your purchase. And if you take us from the cartel, we shall all be struck off the king’s allowance.” “Well then, says Mr. Walker, if you think there is an absolute necessity for my first filling your bellies, let us go look at the signs of the town, and find out the best hearts in the place from the signals at their doors.” We had not gone far in search of some visible signs of hospitality, before we discovered the English arms. “There, says he, is the flag of *good entertainment*, gentlemen; will you please to dine with me at our countryman’s?” We all crowded into the house, and found the landlord was an Irishman, a circumstance which answered our expectation. “Countryman, says
Mr.

Mr. Walker at the first salute, do you bid me welcome? I am come to dine with you." The landlord well perceiving who we were, and having certainly a respect to the appearance of Mr. Walker, very politely answered, "Sir, I do." "I take you at your word, replied Mr. Walker; for I am very hungry, and tho' no monster come to eat you up, yet have seventy mouths, and we are as naked as to money as any beast of the forest: but to speak in plain terms, what I ask of you is to accommodate us whilst we stay, and take my bills," "Sir, says he, carrying his politeness still farther, I take your word; yourself and some few I'll endeavour to make happy in my own house, the rest I'll provide for in out-lodgings." I mention these particulars to shew, that if our countrymen, thro' bigotry, prejudice, or ac-

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cident, settle amongst our enemies, yet they seldom lose their native honesty of heart to their fellow-countrymen ; but rather add to that the polite embellishments of out-side address, learned from their neighbours. Dinner being over and a chearful glass to our country, in which our landlord with much sincerity seemed to join us, Mr. Walker took captain Harman, Mr. Coats, and some others of us to the merchant, about the afore-said purchase. A French gentleman, who was also in the house, and was informed of our intention, offered to go with us to introduce us. The merchant carried the French politeness yet farther than we had already seen it, by insisting to speak to us in English only, which was so bad and broken, as scarce at first to be understood. However, he agreed to take
Mr.

Mr. Walker's bills for the yacht, and after serving us with wine and a collation of sweet meats, "Pray jantilsmans, says he, can you know very well at Brest one Maister Vaker, what you calls his name?" "Sir, this is the gentleman, says captain Harman, pointing to Mr. Walker." "O my dear sir, replies the French gentleman, taking Mr. Walker in his arms, me have de letter to pay you and all de good jantilsmans here, your officiers, for your liberty; me have also de commission for de lettre of credit for you, &c.". This interview and account were no doubt very acceptable; so that with all the merchant's broken English, we never understood plain English better. Mr. Walker's owners Arthur Oldsworth of Dartmouth, Esq; and others, knowing by the Mars, which was retaken and carried back to England, and

and which they repurchased, in what part Mr. Walker was, immediately sent letters of credit to their friends at St. Malo's ; who sent to this gentleman theirs of an unlimited credit, to be forwarded for Mr. Walker at Brest, with directions to purchase his and any two of his officer's liberty whom he should chuse, and to offer for them two prisoners for one. I cannot help here making an observation, on the French manners before we take leave of their country, that tho' their complaisance on the first acquaintance appears to be the expression of a first-fighted friendship, for they never suppose ill of a character introduced to them, whereas the Englishman, who is as civil in the end, always withholds his till he is assured you deserve it ; yet when they receive any more certain intelligence of the worth of
their

their new acquaintance, they double that civility to a pitch almost inconceivable to those who have not tasted the growth of it, like their fruits, in its own country; for it certainly loses much in the transplanting: so this gentleman from an easy politeness, which was before very engaging, took on him at once the endearing familiarity of a friend, insisted on our supping, lying, and in short living at his house whilst we staid at Morlaix. And he certainly was in earnest; for tho' with great difficulty Mr. Walker got off that part of the invitation, which he imagined might be most troublesome to him, that of lying at his house; yet he kept us to supper, and afterwards conducted us to other entertainments, all of which were hospitable and elegant. Perhaps it may be said the complaisance paid to us

was

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his money and the golden wedge, and the generous landlord had ample reward and respect paid him in return, during our stay at Morlaix. The cartel ship set sail in four days, with her numbers packed like bale goods in her hold. Our stay in getting our new vessel fitted up was eight days: but how great was our opinion of French hospitality yet raised, after the former civility of the French merchant, to find it carried even beyond the limits of his own house. The yaul, as soon as ready, was found stored with wines of various kinds and the best sorts, sweet-meats, cakes, fresh provisions, eggs, fowls, hams, &c. more than sufficient for our number and voyage.

Whilst we were taking leave of this generous benefactor, with such expressions of thanks as were the best evidence

evidence of our gratitude, he slipped a letter of unlimited credit into Mr. Walker's hands, in case of our being put back into any port in France. We set sail from Morlaix, February 15, 1745. But the vessel having lain some time in the sun, and her seams not having been properly or well caulked, a matter wherein the common workman's honesty did not equal their better's politeness, we struck over to the island Guernsey, the wind taking us short and the weather stormy. There, not being willing to spare time for repairing the faults of our yacht, Mr. Walker being at all times more apprehensive of the bottom of his ship than that of his men, he sold her at but one guinea loss. From thence we set sail in an English vessel, and arrived all safe and well at Weymouth, February 28th, and Mr. Walker

ker went by land to Dartmouth, which he reached March the 2d.

I believe every officer and gentleman paid Mr. Walker's services the thanks they owed him, in the mentioning of his name. I have had the pleasure to hear Mr. Walker say, that every shilling he had advanced on his own credit to the various gentlemen and others at Morlaix was with honour and due punctuality returned to him.

I must not forget, that at Guernsey we found on the strand the main-top-mast of the *Victory*, which was lost, with her mark, and the name *Victory* on it. I mention this, as I have very lately heard it doubted, whether any proofs of her being wrecked had come on shore.



C R U I S E II.

THE BOSCAWEN.

C H A P. I.

The equipment of the Boscawen private ship of war; an attempt made to seduce the men, and the consequences thereof.

MR. Walker's coming to Dartmouth so much sooner than was expected was an agreeable surprise to his owners; who, having repurchased the Mars, were already fitting her out against his arrival for a
new

new cruise with the Boscawen ; whose captain being accused by his own people of ill conduct in the engagement with the French frigate before mentioned, and now having brought in his ship before the time of her cruise was finished, had altogether so incurred their displeasure, as to be discarded from any further command. Mr. Walker, as he thought the Mars, tho' a fine and stout ship, a slow sailer, now made choice of the Boscawen ; and the command of the Mars was given to Mr. John Bowden, who had been Mr. Walker's first lieutenant. The Boscawen had been a French man of war, and the first, we took from the enemy in the last war, called the Medea, taken by captain Boscawen, now admiral ; a prime sailer, of beautiful construction ; one hundred and fifteen feet in her keel, and

thirty eight feet in her beam, mounted originally twenty eight guns, nine pounders, but was altered by Mr. Walker to thirty guns, twelve and nine pounders upon one deck, having on board three hundred and fourteen men.

While she was fitting out, seamen flocked from all quarters to enter on board; but an accident happened here, which I have thought deserves a relation.

Some persons of Exeter, particularly Mr. Coats, brother to the gentleman of the same name whom Mr. Walker had released from the French prison, and brought with him to England, fitting out at the same time two private ships of war, the Exeter and George, one of their captains, Mr. Tailor, finding what crouds of seamen flocked to Dartmouth, while they
were

were in great want of men at Exeter, thought of a stratagem to bring over some of the Boscawen's men; which was that of pretending his owners had a transport ship to send off with felons, some of whom he said had escaped from them, and entered on board the Boscawen; and so begged leave to search the ship under that colour, to take opportunity of seducing away our men. Mr. Walker immediately gave orders to his commanding officer for liberty to Mr. Tailor of going on board, declaring he meant no protection to such people. The artifice so far succeeded; but his power of bribing not going farther than the opportunity of speaking to two or three of the men, these took some guineas from him, and promised to bring with them a greater number, having stipulated for the

promised reward. Among these was one John Cabel, the principal. When Mr. Tailor had taken leave, as not finding any of the felons pretended to be inquired after, John Cabel appointed seventeen of the men, whom he picked out for his purpose, to meet him at a place of rendezvous. The gang being met, Cabel, who was a remarkable punster and the wit of the crew, addressed his comrades, (the speech I had given me written by himself, nothing altered except some liberties we have taken in the spelling) "Gentlemen, you know my name is Cabel, you'll say a good name for a sailor; well, gentlemen, if you'll trust to this *cabel*, it shall be a *sheet cabel* of profit to you. There has been a *poor taylor* on board our noble captain's ship, endeavouring to *take measure* of our loyalty to the noble

noble captain ; that is, gentlemen, to *list* us in the service of one Mr. *Coats*. Now my boys, to *suit* him in his own *cut*, suppose we *patch up* a kind of a scheme to be *paid for work* we shall never do, and then *sheer off*. I have got three guineas here, with which we will to night make merry, and then think upon it to-morrow." This oration was received with an huzza of applause, and every man followed his leader. At the spending the money, when inspired by the goodness of the ale, they devised a scheme to go to Mr. Tailor at Exeter, every hand to take his money, and then bring off most of the men already enlisted with him, to compleat the number then still wanted for the *Boscawen* ; " for which we shall again, says the politic Cabel, be rewarded by our worthy masters at home." The re-

mainder of the money carried them all to Exeter; where having so far put their scheme in execution as to receive the money for entering, three guineas each man, a countryman of the place who saw them enter and heard captain Tailor brag of his artifice, coming to Dartmouth, immediately acquainted Mr. Walker with this circumstance. He calling a muster of his men, and finding the number missing, was justly enraged at the low cunning of Mr. Tailor; and sent off an officer and party of men, with directions, for the present only, to see whether they were his men, and to send an express of it to him; which coming the next morning with a confirmation "that they were," Mr. Walker immediately went post to Exeter, and took his surgeon with him, in case of any accident happening among the
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the men, which might want his assistance. But the renowned Cabel and his men, having from the party sent before, got some intelligence of Mr. Walker's coming, planted themselves to meet him, about a mile from the city; where they stopped the chaise and gave him three cheers, when Mr. Cabel stepping foremost began a speech: "Noble Sir, we hope you do not doubt our honour; we are true, Sir, and that you shall see if you let us alone a little to ourselves; you shall see we will man you out immediately, with all the best men on board the Exeter. Do, Sir, trust to my management. By G—we are men of strict honour, but we love money and a joke, the two best things in the world next to a whore and fighting." Mr. Walker seeing some humour and confidence in the fellow's manner of expression,

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pression, could not tell what to make of the whole, but ordered them to meet him at the Swan, where he would set up. On his way thither, tho' under no necessity of being beholden for a man of theirs to fit out his own ship, it being pretty near compleated as to numbers; yet he considered, that as his proprietors were equipping the Mars and Dartmouth, which wanted men, and were in every other respect almost ready for the sea, he would, if possible, bring off what men he could, in order to requite the very ungentle treatment he had received from Mr. Tailor. When he came to his inn, he met there his officers and former gang, who acquainted him that his men were really honest to him, but had been aboard the other ships lying at Topsham, where they had received both
money

money and cloaths ; and that they could, if he pleased, bring away most of the whole crew. Before Mr. Walker had well refreshed himself, the seventeen men also came up ; but, being met by Mr. Coate's clerk, a French gentleman, who also had got notice of Mr. Walker's arrival, at the rendezvous, were very passionately accosted by him, and ordered to get to their ship ; as for Mr. Tailor, he never once appeared. " Get you ways, you rascals, says the French clerk ; you shall all be taken prisoners in de country here, if you do not go on board to your own quarters in de ship." By this time Mr. Walker having signified his consent to his officer, and he again giving the men an hint, a single wink had been enough, like a word to the wise, away they in seeming duty sped on board.

Mr. Walker seeing this new kind of claim to his men so audaciously set up even in his presence, could not help growing angry, tho' he for a time permitted it; and upon inquiry finding the French petit-commandant to be clerk to Mr. Coats, he sent a message to Mr. Coats, that he would be glad to speak with him. Mr. Coats immediately desired his company at his house, where he at the first interview expressed great obligations for the favour Mr. Walker had shewn his brother, repeating the circumstance we have already mentioned; but Mr. Walker, who had his breast full of other business to be settled, answered, he had no compliments to pay in return, and would receive none from him; and then set forth his complaints of Mr. Tailor's behaviour. Mr. Coats assured him of his ignorance

rance of the matter, as a business intirely left to the officer they trusted to. “ Yes, Sir, replies Mr. Walker, but if your officer has made a wrong step, you and the other owners must abide the consequences.” Mr. Coats then offered him his own men back. “ No, Sir, says Mr. Walker again, ’tis the affront done my ship, in the seduction of my men, that I am angry at. I’ll not have a man returned me thro’ compulsion : but my officer here shall, with your leave, go on board with a single guinea ; and as many as will follow that, to drink my health, I will never part with.” Leave being given and taken on all sides, the officer was sent aboard ; but Mr. Walker soon after had information given him, that some of the proprietors, or some acting person under them, had first sent a round of two guineas

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more to each man of the seventeen ; and their own men insisting on the like, they gave them also the same, being in number upwards of an hundred men. This no doubt gave Mr. Walker fresh uneasiness, as he now began to fear for the steadiness of his men. And tho' he had power of outbidding any price, yet considering the less a victory costs the greater it is, he resolved to wait the issue. To be short, Mr. Walker's officer went on board, threw down the guinea; three huzzas were sent round the ship, *to Walker and the Boscawen for ever*, and a compleat hundred men, including the seventeen, followed him out of the ship. Mr. Walker getting notice, that all the men were coming ashore, hastened to them and met them just landed ; and instead of conducting them, was himself by them

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conducted to the place of rendezvous, with a sufficient compliment of huzzas thro' crouds of spectators, who, all inquisitive of the cause, were soon instructed, so as to form a right judgment of the matter, by the industrious explanations of the victorious Cabel and his crew.

Towards evening, a gentleman of the town, who was some civil officer, and the same French clerk, came to Mr. Walker, and insisted, in the proprietors names, on Mr. Walker's sending back their men; "that on refusal the army, as there then was a regiment in the town, should be sent for to force him." This language little prevailed on a gentleman whose method it was, as he said, "When he drew his sword, to throw away the scabbard; and that his resolution was to stand by the men, who would do
so

so by him ; that all who could fight their way he would carry off, the rest they might keep." He then immediately gave orders, as there was a wood adjacent, that every man should cut down a good sappling, which, as he said he supposed they could give the army no commission to fire, would be a weapon easier managed than the butt end of a musket. This order was with great expedition complied with ; and some who were Hercules's in zeal, provided themselves with clubs greater than their abilities could wield. Mr. Walker soon got them back again in order into an out-house in the inn to supper ; where the guinea was first drank in form, which was the only money they would admit to be spent on them, every man having guineas of his own in his pocket. Here they provided themselves with fiddles and other diversions

versions of the night ; at the relation of which I could venture, as an entertainment again for the reader ; if it did not deviate from the business of the story.

Mr. Walker sat up in the house all night, in case of any disturbance or surprise ; and having in the mean time secured all the hack-horses in the town, against morning, to the number of about seventy, he, after breakfast, about eight o'clock, led off the men regularly by the boatswain's call, and went himself into his post-chaise at the end of the town, where he had ordered it with the horses, the men mounting themselves to the best advantage. They who first could get on horse and ride off, were happiest, sometimes two got but one horse between them ; and sometimes a third contended for a third share ; and they

they who could not get any share of his back laid claim to the tail. But here it was immediately necessary for Mr. Walker, in common humanity to horse-flesh, to give a new order, counter to the preceding one of the evening before, "That each man should throw away his club of defence, and take to him in its place a switch of expedition; else certainly they would have knocked down one half of their horses, or broke their bones, ere half their journey had been performed." Which order also, by dismounting many a cavalier, gave a new chance to all parties stowing themselves more regularly upon the decks. Never sure was officer attended with better hearts, and yet so out of character, as Mr. Walker was at this time by his sailors turned cavalry. All who, except his own party and a few

few who staid with him, thro' the desire of their horses or badness of their riding, flew forward in a cloud of dust, like a kind of marine Hussars; so that the post-chaise and four horses, tho' going at its usual course, after the rate of ten knots an hour, dropped astern. This great expedition, besides the natural love of making use of a fair wind, which is their opinion of jockyship, as long as the beast has a breath of wind under them, was meant chiefly as a compliment to Mr. Walker, to get dinner ready against his coming to the inn; at which they intended to bait, and whither a small party, by order of Cabel, had been dispatched with provisions over night, trusting to the inn for some additions. They of the most elegant taste among them having laid their heads together to consult the gentility of the table,

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as it was their good luck to find it market-day, set him down, his lieutenant, surgeon, and the landlady at the end of the table, in good hospitality to a leg of pork and cabbage at the head, a boiled buttock of beef and carrots at the foot, a boiled leg of mutton and turnips on one side, a roasted shoulder and potatoes on the other, and a pease-pudding in the middle. At the top of the second course was a hind quarter of lamb boiled with spinnage, and three or four loins broiled in chops heaped around it, a sirloin of beef roasted at the bottom; apple-pie on one side, apple-dumplings on the other, and a huge plumb-pudding in the middle. As this was meant a general treat, happy was the jack, as they would all wait and shew their service, who could give their captain a glass of wine; tho' the most
of

of them as yet knew him only by the report of their fellows, which is a surer character to them than a certificate from the lords of the admiralty. And as the humour could not be prevented, Mr. Walker entered into it with a spirit that kept up his own character, and yet gained their esteem of his affability. Of which, notwithstanding their own roughness, they are as good judges as any people in the world, and can as well distinguish an exactness of command from severity. But to return to the table: Mr. Walker, after drinking some general toasts, which were constantly attended with three cheers in the place of musick, and making them many offers of wine, &c. in return to their hearty invitation, all which thro' downright liberality of soul were refused, at last thought of a present, of which

which they accepted as a very necessary one, tho' yet unthought of, that of a dinner to each of their horses: so ordering half a peck to each horse, the whole company were all at one time happy in *good entertainment*, according to the sign-post, *for man and horse*.

Among the obligations Mr. Walker owed to his men, I cannot forget one favour asked of them ; and which was in their turn strictly observed, to a wonder you will say, and that was, "that no man should get drunk, but come to their proprietors sober." I have dwelled upon these particulars I hope not too long, to shew that an evenness of command will generally guide these kind of men to a strict observance of orders ; which happy art of directing has been the great characteristic of the gentleman we
speak

speak of; and proved his own and men's deliverance in the course of his command more than once. The time of departing being come, the cavalcade set out anew. Mr. Walker, and some invalids in that part to which nature has appointed the office of giving rest to all other parts of the body, bringing up the rear, the whole corps arrived safe before night, at Dartmouth; without one desertion, without one man's being in liquor, without one accident, except some tumbles over the fore-castle of the horse, or a flip or two off the stern.

We must end this chapter with observing, that ever after this accident, Mr. Cabel had great deference and respect paid him among the crew, for his judgment and sagacity; and he made a good sailor and brave fellow, till like some other great men, he fell

at last a real prey to gold. Of which in its place; and thus the Boscawen was at once fitted out with a number of picked men for the ensuing cruise: in which as they were all deserving sharers, so we may say, that each contributed to its success.



CHAP.

C H A P. II.

The first cruise of the Boscawen private ship of war, her taking the Martinico fleet, and her return to Bristol.

THE Boscawen being ready for the sea, Mr. Walker chose not to wait either for the Mars or Dartmouth; and accordingly on April the 19th, 1745, we sailed from Dartmouth, perhaps, the most compleat privateer ever sent from England.

Among the several amendments and alterations, contrived in her by Mr. Walker, for the convenience of engaging and other matters; I cannot help taking notice of one, which might be of infinite service in general,

as particularly instrumental to our success. This was an intire new construction of our quarters ; as they were here raised with elm, in the place of nettings, man high and small shot-proof, with a step below for the marines to mount on and fire, and then stand off again to load. By this means the ship was always ready for an engagement, and could not be surprised ; whereas, the business in other ships of fitting up their hammocks throws the men into an hurry ; whilst the time thereby taken up could be better used in other dispositions of affairs, too much hastened over ; if not, too often neglected. I have heard an objection made at home to this contrivance ; which, least it may be again started, I will answer : “ That the large shot may tear the planks to pieces, and the splinters hurt the men worse

worse than the small shot could do." The elm yields to the large balls, which leave an hole so small, the elm swelling back to its place, as scarce afterwards to be believed the passage of the ball, without ever splintering. This Mr. Walker first proved, before he set them up: but I speak from a further knowledge of seeing them experienced.

May the 23d, in the evening, we fell-in with the Sheerness private ship of war, Captain Parnell, of twenty two guns; who kept us company for the night. By break of day the next morning, in latitude forty-six and forty-seven, longitude fourteen and fifty west from the Lizard, we made eight sail of ships, to which we gave chase; and we going much better than the Sheerness, left her so far behind, that she could not so much as come up to

us, or be of any assistance during the ensuing action. About nine o'clock the enemy formed a line, and waited our coming up; we then drawing nearer, saw they were all ships of force: and tho' on our side every thing was prepared for engaging; yet I believe, not a man in the ship thought of coming to one, the Sheerness being quite astern. Mr. Walker then, perhaps perceiving some suspense among his officers, as waiting his determination, delivered himself to us, nearly in these words: "Gentlemen, I hope you do not think the number of prizes before us too many. Be assured by their being armed they have something on board them worth defending: for I take them to be merchantmen with letters of marque, and homeward-bound; without doubt we shall meet with some opposition; in
which

which I have not the least doubt of your courage: but I see we must here conquer also by a master-ship of skill. Be cool, and recollect every man his best senses: for as we shall be pressed on all sides, let every man do his best in engaging the enemy he sees before him; and then one side need not fear or take thought for the other. In a word, gentlemen, if you give me your voices for my leading you on, I pawn my life to you, I will bring you off victorious." Being seconded by a spirit of approbation throughout the whole ship, which could not but elevate his own courage, he then made the proper disposition of his officers, giving them strict orders "that, let them receive what fire they might from the other ships, they should not fire a single gun, till he gave the word." So bore up directly

to the larger ship of the enemy ; (which, by her throwing out signals to the others, he judged to be the commodore) well knowing that nothing promised him success so much as attacking close.

I forgot to mention, that notwithstanding the shortness of the time since we left England, we had upwards of sixty of our men on the sick-list. These, all except three, crawled up upon deck, and tho' of little service, yet would they at least behold the action.

As we were coming up to the enemy, with all our sails set, the whole number of ships kept firing their stern-chace at us ; by which we lost our mizen-top-mast, and had our rigging much shattered. When we came up to the sternmost ship, we received her broadside and those
of

of the two ships next to her, as we passed them, without returning a single gun; making up to the commodore in the center. And now about eleven o'clock getting close to him we began the engagement, pouring our broadside full into him. This was as fully returned, he having a stout ship of twenty-four guns: They then broke their line of battle, and attacked us, two on each side, and one athwart our forefoot. The sternmost ship of the line, *La Victorie*, which was the smallest, of ten guns, also came under our stern, and poured her broadside into us by way of raking us; but being injured by our stern guns, she run out of our reach, and struck. Thus was the engagement carried on by five ships only, the two, which were most a-head, going off, and in this situa-

tion was continued against us for a full hour, firing our broadsides, from each side at once, upon the two on each quarter, and they theirs as warmly into us; our bow-chace also keeping the one athwart our fore-foot in good play; we also kept a perpetual firing of our small arms. Yet was this engagement, in which several accidents happened to us chiefly in our rigging, sustained on our part without confusion or any disorder, throughout the whole. Every man went on with his own business, in his own department; and the word of command was observed, with a regularity almost inconceivable, thro' the disposition first made by Mr. Walker, in fixing every man to his proper station, with distinct orders to each part of the ship. Nor was there one man or officer behaved amiss either in courage or
obeying

obeying commands ; nor indeed did any one seem to excel another in either ; the whole appearing rather a business conducted, than an accident of fighting.

In about three quarters of an hour from our first engaging, we perceived the commodore's ship greatly disabled, for we planted our greatest fire against him, all his masts and rigging being intirely carried away ; at length his ship having received several shots under water, he fell back from under our cannon, and struck. The engagement was still continued by the rest. In less than ten minutes after striking, the ship went down. Here was a new scene, of persons floating in the sea on various parts of the wreck, which they, who could attain, thought themselves happiest in distress, as fortunate to lay hold of:

this a while suspended the fight. We then and then only were in an hurry, to hasten our assistance of the barge: for the boats were intirely shot away: but we were soon convinced it was out of our power, so soon to commence friends; for the four other ships seeing our ship also so much hurt in her rigging, it being almost torn to pieces, renewed their attack with greater fury: so that we were obliged to return to business; whilst the poor floaters in the sea were otherwise unassisted, except only by the boat of the *La Victoire*; which was immediately hoisted out to them, and took up about twenty six of the people, saved on the loose yards and other pieces of the wreck. This new attack lasted very hot on both sides, for near half an hour, the one making the onset, as the last effort.

effort for their liberty ; and we knowing, if we stood the shock, our victory would be acknowledged compleat. At last one of the ships, being totally disabled, struck ; and then the rest followed, as fast as they could, one after another ; all in shattered plight ! each of them having behaved with great courage and equal resolution.

By this time the Sheerneck came up, and seeing the work over, judiciously went in pursuit of the other two ships, who first made sail at the beginning of the engagement. One of which she took, and brought back ; the other got off.

The ships which struck to us, besides the one taken by the Sheerneck, were, as we at first supposed, all homeward-bound Martinico-men, each

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having a letter of marque, and being a ship of force. *viz.*

		Guns.	Men.
Duke de Guienne	Captain L'Estourier	18	65
La Victoire	Captain Brulle	10	38
Le Bell Louis	Captain Fromentin	14	43
St. Andrees	Captain Gautier	18	54
L' Abraham	Captain Berthome	14	46
La Jeune Marié	Commodore, funk	24	84

The enemy had one hundred and thirteen men killed and lost ; fifty eight of whom were on board the Commodore, and fifty five among the other ships. On our side was but one man killed, and seven wounded ; apparently owing to the new construction of our quarters, as spoke of before. However, we and the whole fleet were so disabled, that we were obliged to lie to, for forty eight hours, before we could make any sail upon
our

our ship or those of the enemy. And now we had but few or none sick men, they having been roused in the course of the action into health; which proves, what I have before occasionally observed, the great power the spirits have in cures of the body.

Among the people who were saved from the wreck was the Commodore himself, and which was very remarkable, an old lady, a person of some distinction, and who was a passenger from Martinico, floating at some distance on a bag of cotton; which had been put up in the nettings, and is supposed to have got loose. When the captains and other French officers were coming on board our ship, it was told Mr. Walker, that the Commodore had been taken up from the wreck; at which he expressed great joy; and when he came on board,
Mr.

Mr. Walker took him by the hand ; and, without waiting for further ceremony, led him into his cabin. Here was a scene opened which required the exercise of his own natural humanity, and the imitation also of the politeness he himself had met with from the French, when in the like situation. Such is the great change of things ! the prisoner of yesterday may be master of to-day. And such in general is the happy consequences of generous actions, that tho' the first giver may not always see their effect, yet if we trace them forward, we shall seldom find they die, but return their produce to some other hand. The old lady was now brought into the cabin, in great dishabille of dress. She at once threw herself at Mr. Walker's feet, and wept there in great agonies ; fearing she

she was to be treated as cruelly on board the English ship, as she had been by them in her own : till raised by him, and assured of her present safety, of which she seemed to be more convinced by his countenance and address to her, than by his words; she cries out, “And, O good heavens! Is this bloody conqueror a man of humanity?” In mentioning so particularly the gentleness of the French to us, when in their power, I imagined it might be so far useful and agreeable, as it informed the readers of the manners and policy of another country, in a situation of superiority, to those below them : but I have several reasons to pass over in silence many passages of politeness and generosity, between Mr. Walker and his prisoners : first, as my relating them will be little instruction to my country-

try-

try-men, who do not suspect any want of humanity among themselves. Secondly, as I do not apprehend my work will be translated into any of the neighbouring languages, it will be no information to strangers. And lastly, I know Mr. Walker is prepared to quarrel with me, whenever I say a word, that seems to throw any compliment on himself. I will say only, that Mr. Walker having given the Commodore a new suit of his cloaths, with other necessary equipments, and the old lady a silk-night gown, some fine linen waistcoats, cambric night-caps, &c. in which she appeared a kind of Hermaphrodite in dress, left them for full twenty hours solely in possession of his cabin and state-room, giving them his steward as a servant to produce every thing under his care, needed for their accommodation; he
himself

himself was the whole time busied in refitting our rigging and those of the other ships, securing the prisoners, as also in taking care of our wounded men, in which office he always superintended, three of whom afterwards died, and in providing for the sick and wounded of the enemy. Upon his return, Mr. Walker found his prisoners seemingly happy and in spirits; nor did he appear there to have more command than the rest, unless in taking on him a greater direction, to have all things prepared for the whole company in the best manner, having always all the captains and supercargoes at dinner at his table. Thus in a few hours no people could be to all intents in appearance more in good humour than the present company, even to a degree of mirth. Mr. Walker had two French horns and
other

other musick on board, which he was very fond of, but ordered them not to play ; as he apprehended any shew of mirth in him might look like an inattention to their misfortunes. But the old gentlewoman, who took great pleasure in going about the ship, and commending among other things particularly the neatness of our men and ship, in comparision to those of the French, seeing them hang up in the steerage, insisted on their accompanying the dinner, as usual ; and even joined the flutes with her voice in singing. In which art, we may say, she was a great mistress by nature.

I have often considered the etymology of the French word for unhappiness : they call it, *malheur*, or the evil hour ; which denotes their consideration of it in a light of philosophy ; and is an over-conforming to the
Chri-

Christian-doctrine, as they herein imply; “that sufficient unto the hour is the evil thereof.” I have heard it said, “that this their ease under misfortunes is in them a respect only for the company present.” If so.—It speaks yet greater to their politeness, than any thing has been said for it, or any other instance can be given. And as I did not mean, to carry this compliment of their tempers to an insensibility of mind; if the reader will lend attention, we will give, from the words of the old lady, her story; which she in a few days acquaintance told, with very feeling strokes of grief, in the utterance.

The

The Story of Madam——

I Will not entertain you, Sir, with the relation of my birth, family, or the many circumstances of my love, that brought me to the character of a wife. Let it suffice, I virtuously loved the best and most generous of men: but my husband and self, being each of the younger branches of noble families, disobliged our friends on both sides by our marrying. He had been bred up early in the army; and, having there gained some rank, was soon obliged to leave me, to obey the call of honour to his country; flattering himself, that by his success there, he should better his fortune for our happier days: as we always affix happiness to the acquisition

quisition of wealth. But, in the famous battle with your countrymen of Blenheim, having received an hurt, he was taken prisoner, and died among your people of his wounds. He left me with child; yet, thro' the excess of my affection to him, I deprived myself of the happiness of having any living remembrance of him brought to perfection; for I miscarried of a son at the end of eight months, thro' a fatigue of travelling to him, and the distress of my mind, in hearing of the great danger he then was in; fearing lest he had not a just care taken of him among his enemies. He did not die thro' any want in that respect: for I reached him some weeks before his death; when he gave me assurance of the great generosity of the English in the care of their prisoners. He died within my arms; and in respect

spect to my presence, and his own distinction, the English buried him with the honours of a soldier.

Thus, in about nine months after our marriage, I was left a widow ; and tho' my fortune was not sufficient to intitle me to any great choice of husbands ; yet I often further disoblighed my own relations, in not submitting myself a second time to be disposed of, according to their judgment of happiness ; and I continue his widow to this day. Some months after my return home, a decent and genteel woman came to my house, desiring to speak to me ; who, when admitted, introduced in her hand, to my great agony and surprise, an infant apparition of my deceased husband. The poor woman had no design in it ; but came only to inquire about the certainty of his death. At last, by my taking
such

such notice of the child, she confessed to me, to have had formerly an amour with my husband : which was satisfactorily proved to me to have been previous even to his first protestations of love to me, by the advanced age of the dear little one, who was about five years old. Upon hearing all the circumstances of the woman's story ; and finding her to be just intitled to the appellation of gentlewoman ; and, as I am no very fashionable condemner of my own sex, believing her to have been virtuous and affectionate to him ; I could not help sympathizing in the loss of the object of both our affections. In short, I immediately laid hold of the boy as my own, and have often smiled at myself in the remembrance, absolutely imagining I had a right in him, and such a one, as I dare say, I then would have

I disputed

disputed with half my fortune. But I found the conditions of having him were easy, if I provided also for the mother : which I did, by immediately taking them both into my family. The child soon learned to look upon me as its better mother ; and the real one, from my kindness to him, soon began to believe that my claim to him was greater than her own : and she to her death lived with me, as an agreeable companion, and trusty assistant in all my family affairs.

'Tis certain, heaven has given us happiness even in our cares and business : which by a just search of it in them we are sure of finding out. It was so in my care of this infant : for as he grew, I found a pleasing sensation, in the duty, I thought I therein discharged, to the remembrance of my deceased husband. But I should

appear to indulge too much the nature of a mother ; if I went on to tell you, how happily that care was repaid in the promising genius my boy soon discovered, and all the accomplishments he with ease to himself gained in his education ; for I made no secret of him to the world : but introduced him to all my friends and relations, as my adopted son, and as such I had him respected ; not but I was sensible I often stood the censure of my relations, and even the ridicule of my acquaintance behind my back, for my conduct. However, as the disreputation of his birth was a circumstance that could not be wiped easily from him, and as I very early took care to cross every inclination in him to the army, for I was determined not to risque my love a second time therein, I resolved to bring him

up to a negotiator (or merchant); and having considerably increased my little fortune in the Mississippi, just before he was out of his time, his master offered him a partnership in his business, provided I would deposit a proper advance with him ; and he go settle in the West-Indies, to take on him the management of their affairs in that part of the world. As I was almost weary of my own country, and it was an offer too advantageous for him to be refused by me, every matter was transacted for his advantage ; and he set out his own master, possessed at once of a good fortune and a large business, with his two mothers for the West-Indies. We were not long arrived in that country before he received letters from his partner, beseeching his return to marry his only daughter, who having been

been in love with him, and taken so ill on his departure, was obliged to make this discovery to her parents for the safety of her life. I found the letter was a very agreeable surprise to him ; and as I was the mother whose consent he thought himself the most bound to ask, he quickly obtained my leave for his going back ; the young lady being well known to, and approved of by me, during my intimacy in the family. In less than five months, he returned to us with his wife, and a large addition to his fortune ; and ever since has increased in reputation and wealth, to the great esteem of the whole place, and my no little pride in his prosperity. The good-mother is since dead. I sincerely loved her ; and often, in considering my regard for her, have thought, that the passions which we imagine

natives of our constitution, are frequently learned from custom: thus in our christian education, women hate each other for loving the same man; whereas in the Mahometan they look on each other as thereby united in relationship; and, as having the same parent, commence sisters in mutual regard.

My son's family soon increased in a number of beautiful children; among which I took a particular love to one, a girl whose beauty and endowments of mind made me see her with pleasure the object of universal esteem. Here she broke off. "O! my dear filia, says she, in an heroic agony, as the gods owed one Venus to the sea, (for so this lively matron expressed herself,) know, my poor mortal has paid that present back." After a full discharge of tears, which again eased her

her breast, she went on. “My son’s partner dying a few years ago, and his whole fortune, which is very considerable coming to my son, in right of his wife, he was obliged to hasten to Europe: which he did just before the beginning of the war, leaving his wife and us behind him, till a fitter opportunity of our following him, or his returning to us. As his wife and myself grew impatient at his absence, and women’s tempers not always well agreeing in the same house, I resolved to set out first for Europe, both as I wished to end my days in my own country; and, as her parents had intirely made over to me this young beauty, who was now near seventeen, I wished to educate her in France, and there to have matched her to some person of distinction; for I intended to have given her my

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whole

whole fortune, which under my son's management is now very largely increased. But, alas! how vain are our designs of futurity on earth! how uncertain are serene days! and what a mixture of misfortunes is dashed into the cup of happiness even at our lips! O, Sir, this dear creature lies buried now below us, by the cursed rage of man; that devil of quarrel! which stalks between them on this earth, from every petty strife up to war. And as for you, Sir, turning with great indignation to the French commodore, you ought, and perhaps may answer your rash persevering to engage with an enemy you saw so much your superior." The gentleman only smiled, shewing at the same time a consciousness of his having done his duty, and expressing a tender pity for his accuser. But Mr. Walker made answer, "Madam, that

that very conduct you accuse is what must intitle him to the love of every brave man, and to the notice of his country. 'Tis that bravery, which obliges me to use him, you, and all, for his sake, with the respect such an enemy demands." "This Sir, replies the very sensible and good lady, is only a man talking of the excellencies of his own trade : but when you hear me out, you will be, perhaps, less in love with the beauties of your profession. The morning we first saw you, a gladness seemed to reign in the whole ship, like that of savages at an inhuman banquet, and they used a like phrase, saying, that you would not be a breakfast for them. But when I saw you pass the other ships, I said to the commodore as I stood by him, for we expected to have seen the engagement begin with them,

that you meant to be at him only. And when you came, like the breaking of a cloud with a shock of lightning and thunder together, I hastened where I and my poor child were conducted to the place of safety. This was a more melancholly situation than the other was terrible. Hither they brought the poor bleeding sailors, one after another, without legs, without arms, roaring with their pains, and laid in heaps to be butchered anew by the surgeon, in his haste and dispatch of cure or death. Here several of the objects died at our feet. Thus surrounded by the ghastly prospect, all at once, death himself came breaking in upon us, thro' the side of the ship; cut down the surgeon and one of his mates, and shattered the whole medicine-chest in pieces. Here was a total suspension of all relief to the poor wounded

wounded wretches : death coming, as it were, to reinforce his own orders, and stop every means or effort to prevent him. You may judge we soon left this place of grief and terror, as it grew also a place of danger. When we came out on the decks, there we strode over heaps of dead bodies, or slipped in the streams of blood, our hearts dying within us at the prospect of this hideous scene of mangled limbs, scattered brains, and every external sign of horror. Thus we wandered from place to place, calling on our saints, and passed unhurt thro' all the assaults of death ; in which we saw numbers fall on every side of us. At last, we heard an uproar, still more dreadful, and dismal cry transmitted along the ship ; " She'll sink ! strike, strike." This confusion never ceased ; so that tho' your guns I sup-

pose were silent, we never missed their sound ; for now our inward war grew more and more distracting, and a worse terror possessed the face of every man we met. We were soon informed, we must in our turn prepare for instant death. Here my dear Maria indulged me with her last embrace ; and clasped in each other's arms we reached the higher deck. I remember her asking for the boat, and a sailor answering, " If we would save ourselves it must be by wings." And so she did ; for she has winged her flight to heaven. I know nothing after this, nor how we were separated ; nor, when the ship sunk, how I grasped at my deliverance : but my dear Maria, I never saw more. And tho' I believe I soon came to my senses on the float, yet that was rising to a life worse than death. In vain I searched
round

round for my lovely fair one : but saw her not. Yet as I saw many float with myself on pieces of the wreck, and taken up, I hoped, for hope still attends us even on a wreck in the open sea, that my dear Maria was among the number ; but, alas ! she is not." Here her tears and silence infected the whole company. At last Mr. Walker, taking on him to mention the signal acts of providence in her safety ; which, if it had pleased, could have equally preserved both as one, she with great ease, which we may call great good sense, was soon cheered, and renewed her speech only to make this genteel conclusion, " That, as her story had found so many friends in the company, and been so affecting to them, she would in her turn endeavour to promote in mirth the happiness of the company,

to make amends for the pain she had given it."

Tho' we made shift to repair in some measure the damage we had sustained, we were still in a shattered condition; as was the whole fleet, except the *La Victoire*. Having a great charge of prisoners, and being moreover weakened by manning the other ships, Mr. Walker steered for the first port in England; and May 30th, arrived safe with all the prizes, in King's Road Bristol.

The second day after his arrival, he received a congratulatory letter from the lords of the admiralty, by their secretary Mr. Corbet (for he always corresponded with their lordships, as all private ships of war are directed to do) desiring, "That if he met with any papers in those prizes, which might give light into the proceedings

ceedings or designs of the French at Martinico, he would immediately send the same to them by express ;” which was strictly obeyed there having been found a large parcel of very great consequence. By which papers also Mr. Walker, having been apprised, that another large fleet was soon to sail from Martinico and St. Domingo, he made all possible haste to repair ; so that he was intirely employed both in person and thoughts on refitting for a second expedition. However fortune, like other ladies of character, does not yield to us in every thing, although she may for a lucky moment smile upon us.

A sufficient number of hands being kept for this purpose, the rest of the men, raised, by their success and great fortune, to an height of natural spirits, beyond what any artificial ones could

could give, swarmed over the city in revellings of joy and pleasure. Tho' many things were committed out of rule ; yet by good luck and some advice, no disagreeable accident happened to them, or by them to others. The leisure-time Mr. Walker could get from the business of his ship, was given in compliment to the old gentlewoman, the French commodore, and others. And herein he was so apt a scholar, that we may say he out-did, in his country, the French generosity he had met with in theirs. In the first place, not the least article of money, utensils, or cloaths, was taken from any of the officers or men. The French commodore indeed was naked ; and what was worse, so was the lady. But Mr. Walker supplied him with money, suits of cloaths, and all other corresponding necessaries, at
his

his landing; he also obtained for him his liberty, and that of all the officers and supercargoes of the fleet. As for the facetious old lady, she exercised her taste, at the same expence, in modelling the great docility of the Bristol milliners, and mantua-makers, in the polite cuts and misshapes of the French fashions, in which she apprehended she had done great services to the country. And as she was desirous of going much abroad Mr. Walker hired her a coach to attend on her, the whole time during her stay, as her own. Being obliged to go to London, he requested the favour of using her coach, as far as Bath; and to have the honour of staying a week with her there, that he might shew the place to her, the commodore, and another of the captains. The rest of the French gentlemen had leave afterwards

wards of going by themselves. The morning Mr. Walker and his company set out, they were most divertingly and unexpectedly overtaken on the road by a new kind of cavalcade of the honest tars, who, having heard that their captain was going to Bath with the French lady, were determined every one to shew it to their ladies also, as every one, who had not a lady of his own, had bought or borrowed one for the time; and thinking it a compliment to him to set out on the same day, they were resolved to make the genteeler figure on the occasion. The generous hearted jacks, knowing that ribbands are a great part of the state shew of a lord-mayor's day, in graceful knots and roses on the manes and tails of the horses, were led by the like desire of gentility to the purchase; for the ex-
pence

pence was the left article considered; of all the variety of colours, tied up in streamers, that might have passed for the strings of so many rainbows, or in knotted roses to adorn their triumph. These when brought home most of their ladies fell in love with: so that the number was increased, and equally disposed of on the necks and rumps of the horses, and in the hats, and on the breasts of the ladies. Besides these, all the men had similar cockades for themselves. Never sure were horses, whores, and ribbands so dear in one day at Bristol! They who got coaches, were no doubt in their own thoughts set out the most genteel. Whereas they were most the caricaturas of gentility: whilst those who flaunted in open chaises exhibited a more loose and easy picture, tho' they run the greatest risque of breaking
ing

ing their necks. The waggon and their horses, adorned with boughs, ribbands, and bells, trotted on in the gayest dress of all, and seemed most happy in themselves. Some few appeared, like straggling attendants of the procession, on horse-back; and he who would not be thought without a mistress, took her behind him. But they who could get neither coach, chaise, nor waggon, going in search of something with wheels, and finding some brewer's trundles, (which thro' policy or good nature were not refused them, as otherwise they would perhaps have been piratically borrowed for the occasion) sawed a butt or large hog-head into two; and nailing it down to the trundle, with a board across for a seat, set out as much in pomp, as their fellows, and more in character of a triumphal car; obliged to
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the ready invention and contrivance peculiar to their species for this their happy equipment. Besides having an equal ornament of parti-coloured streamers properly disposed, these machines, of which there were at least twenty, were decorated with an additional fancy of an ensign or jack, set up on the head of the foremost horse, a pennant on a pole erected on the foremost part of the trundle, and colours, hung out by the like contrivance on a sloping one, at the stern ; which made them of an amphibious kind, or a mixture of land and water carriage. I hope my reader will not imagine, I exaggerate or add any circumstances by way of making out a tale ; upon my word I do not. The many living witnesses to all these particulars could easily disprove any false fact which might appear in the performance ;

formance; but the number of incidents and catastrophes are so numerous and interesting, thro' the whole, that the story tells itself; and runs on, like a tongue with an easy talent of speaking, without waiting for much assistance from invention or judgment. This new invention bore much the greatest applause, and made the most corresponding and gay figure of the whole triumph. In this pomp and order, tho' with a little more swiftness, than is usually agreed to, in the like processions of a lord-mayor, or lord-keeper on the first days of term, the several retinues ran by Mr. Walker's company, to the great pleasure and delight particularly of the old lady, who was very sedulous in returning the compliments of salutation, as they huzzaed and passed. "No wonder, says she to Mr. Walker, your country

country with this spirited liberty beats the world at sea." The French commander was less satisfied at the remark, taking this cavalcade as a kind of triumph before him, and refused going into the town with them: but was assured by Mr. Walker of his own ignorance of the whole affair; and that the moment the men got to the town, they would of themselves instantly disperse, and he never see one of them; that it was only a whim put into execution in their droll manner of doing things, which always afforded mirth even to themselves at their awkwardness in imitating any customs upon land: in which, as in their last sort of equipages, they could not help mixing their own sea manners even in their common expressions; being a people of a distinct nature

ture in themselves, for the most part divested of common knowledge of things on shore. "If then, that be the case, says he, and so long as it is the case, you will always be masters in men at sea. Now our sailors are at sea just what yours are at land : beings not properly acting in their own element ; and therefore awkward in their manners, as endeavouring, on the contrary of yours, to make those of the land submit to the uses of the sea. In which we run a danger, where you, on the other hand, are diverted."

Their stay at Bath, where the French lady and officers expressed great pleasure and satisfaction, could not be long ; Mr. Walker's compliments going farther than any entertainment this gay place could give,
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he having thro' his interest gained all their names to be put in a cartel, in less than two months from their first arrival. Their turn was now to go, and he himself was obliged to take leave of them at Bath, as his business hurried him to London. But not a circumstance was forgot, which might attend as a convenience on their stay, even to their departure, and after; as to provisions, wine, &c. being sent them on board. The commodore, all the officers of the fleet, supercargoes, and passengers went, all by the same interest, together. Mr. Walker gave the commodore two letters, one for the merchant at Morlaix, and the other for the governor at Brest, recommending to them the bravery of the gentleman, who was the bearer; and he had the pleasure soon after to

see

see his name set to a command in the king's service. Both he and the lady expressed an additioned distress in their common loss, being deprived of the means of making Mr. Walker a return for his civilities: she indeed offered him a draught on her son in France, which he refused: but she wrote to him from Bristol, full of acknowledgments and promises of gratitude to a generosity she wished she had never known. Which without doubt, had she lived, would have corresponded with her other proofs of sense and spirit. But Mr. Walker has been some little time ago informed that, immediately after she had seen her adopted son, she was taken ill, without having had time before her death to make her will in his favour, her then present one being made to her

her beloved Maria; and that her relations have sued him to an account; which he is well able to pay, having, thro' the use of her fortune, amassed two very respectable estates in Europe and the West-Indies.



VOL. I.

I

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

The second cruise of the Boscawen private ship of war. Her taking a French snow; the mutiny of the men on taking a Dutch vessel; her putting in to Madeira, and stay there.

AFTER the departure of our French company from Bath, Mr. Walker fell ill of a fever there. Mr. Holdsworth went to him and staid with him till his recovery, so far as, to be able to be brought down by four men in a chair; his time for going to London being elapsed, and his presence every hour needed at Bristol. From thence, after a most expeditious refitting of new masts, yards,

yards, and other materials, we set sail July the 26th, 1745, with the same officers and crew; except our first lieutenant, Mr. Brooks, who was son to one of the lords of the regency at Hamburgh, an acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and had been, the first moment Mr. Walker took the command of a cruising ship, sent under him by his father to sea. This gentleman, on the news of our success in the last signal engagement, and on Mr. Walker's writing to his father in his favour, as he was a young man of the greatest courage and merit, was called home, and immediately promoted to the command of a sixty gun ship against the Turks.

I must run the risque of some little censure in first setting out with a superstitious story, as ominous to the

misfortune of this cruise, not that in myself I feel my own mind under the tyranny of superstition, however I may have a proper deference to the good authorities of others. But without supposing belief at all to interfere, the mentioning of it here is necessary, as it produced a new subject which requires to be distinctly treated. There had been a report made by the French officers, when this ship was first taken, that a gunner's wife had been murdered on board. Whether this story was known to some of the men, and so promulgated among the rest, Mr. Walker could say, so far from mentioning it himself, he never once seemed to think of it. But one of the men, remarkable for his sobriety and good character, one night alarmed the ship; declaring, that he had seen a
strange

strange appearance of a woman, describing her dress and figure, who informed him, among some other particulars, that the ship would be lost. Mr. Walker took all the pains imaginable to suppress such a notion, seeing it too much prevailed on the spirits of his men; but the opinion had taken root, and he found it a more serious matter than he at first imagined: so strong is any previous impression received in the mind, planting itself against all the efforts and regular attacks of reason! He called the man into his cabin, who to the last persisted in his story; but with his usual civility and sense, as he was perhaps a man of all the rest the most remarkable for those qualities, he promised not to repeat it. Had the man raised up a thousand spectres, acquainting them with the falls of

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kingdoms and of kings, it had been treated with unconcern ; but the prediction of their own misfortune, so near at hand, made a deep impression on the courage of the boldest. The fellow came again seriously and privately to Mr. Walker, and declared, that he a second time had conversed with her. And a third time, he called out, in seeming agonies to some of his ship-mates, " that he then saw and heard her." These were enemies for Mr. Walker to deal with, which he had not yet found among the living ; for now a total languor infected all the common men, and even some of the officers. And two more of the men, in their scared imaginations were ready to make oath, of their seeing her at different times, and gave accounts shocking in circumstances. Mr. Walker could not
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conceive it to be any scheme or contrived tale to draw off the affections of the men ; or debilitate their courage. Nor did punishment appear a proper means of suppressing the opinions of the mind ; but still there was a necessity for some cure.

It may perhaps be still thought a matter of small consequence to mention : but they who are conversant with men under a command, know that a despondency often runs thro' a whole set of them from a trifling cause, and is generally attended with consequences very dangerous to a commander. Enthusiasm itself indeed is a spectre of the brain ; but, being more a spirit of life, it raises and actuates men to bold and glorious actions ; for the greatest deeds which emblazon history, from the first date of time to the present day, have been

atchieved by this spirit alone. If enthusiasm, which is the highest region of superstition, will inspire to such acts of heroism, to what remissness of action will despondency, which is its lowest abyss, enervate and clog the mental powers! for these two degrees rise and fall from the smallest turns or changes of things. Like other mechanic spirits in the tube, affected by every alteration of the air, the smallest accident may influence the greatest designs, and carry them up to prosperity, fame, and sunshine; or lower them to adversity and nipping frosts, in which not a bud of glory can put forth or flourish. In what an uncertain region then does a commander move, who acts in this sphere of praise and popular approbation! 'Tis therefore wrong in those, who judge of their actions at a distance,

stance, not to allow sometimes the greatest accidents of success or misfortune to be consequences often of the smallest cause. I speak but as to the general; for as Mr. Walker has never been under public censure as an officer, all I mean to advance is, that the foregoing relation, tho' it may appear a subject fit only for a nursery, (according to the diabolical custom of frightening children to sleep,) was a matter of more moment at the time, and afterwards, than can be, without sensible consideration, at first imagined. And I must also take care to excuse myself as a writer; hoping the reader will not think, because I am beginning a tragical scene, that I endeavour to imitate the tragic authors, who write only to the passions, by introducing a ghost.

Mr. Walker therefore, in his then circumstances, put this affair on such a footing, as if some others had contrived this apparition to strike the conceptions of all such fools as would believe it; and he promised a reward to any who would discover the inventors of such an ill-timed plot of diversion. Finding this begin to answer his expectation, he thought it the season to apply the cure, and gave money to two of the most trusty and intelligent of the common men he could pitch upon, to take on them, by some well planned story, to bring the rest into an opinion, that they were the drest-up phantom; and they accordingly underwent a very severe censure, in words only, for such their imprudence. This had a better effect than any other means of argument; and

and it found also a readier belief from a story he to this purpose told us very a-propos, of having himself seen an apparition, which from the appearing probability in its circumstances of being real, and proving in the end a cheat, shewed the general foundation of such pretences.

As we had nothing material between the first day of our cruise, and the twenty second of August, I shall, with the leave of some of my readers, fill up the space with the relation of Mr. Walker's story; especially as there may be a lesson drawn from it. Those who think it an intrusion on the subject may very readily pass it over.

In the midst of June 1734, Mr. Walker lying at an anchor at Cadiz, in his ship the Elizabeth, a gentleman of Ireland, whose name was Burnet,

was then on board, going to take his passage over to Ireland. This gentleman was a particular acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and he was extremely fond of him, being a man of great good sense and very lively in conversation. The night before the affair which we speak of happened, the subject turned upon apparitions of deceased friends, in which this gentleman seemed much to believe, and told many strange stories as authorities for them, besides giving some metaphysical arguments, chiefly that the natural fear we had of them proved the soul's confession of them. But Mr. Walker, who was intirely of another way of thinking, treating all his arguments with ridicule, Mr. Burnet, who was bred a physician, was curious to try how far fancy might be wrought on in an unbeliever, and resolved

solved to prove the power of this natural fear over the senses : a strange way, you will say, to convince the mind by attacking the imagination ; or, if it was curiosity to see the operations of fear work on fancy, it was too nice an experiment to anatomize a friend's mind for information only. But perhaps the humour of the thought was the greatest motive ; for he was a man of a gay temper, and frolicsome.

About noon, as they were standing, with more of the ship's company, upon deck, near the forecastle, looking at some of the governor's guard-boats, making fast to a buoy of a ship in the bay, in order to watch the money, that it might not be carried out of the country, Mr. Burnet proposed, as a plan for a wager, he being a remarkable good swimmer, to leap off the
gunnel

gunnel of the ship, and dive all the way quite under water, from the ship to the boats at that distance, and so rise up just upon them, to startle the people at watch in them. A wager being laid, he undrest, jumped off, and dived intirely out of sight. Every body crouded forwards, keeping their eyes at the distance where he was expected to come up; but he never rising to their expectation, and the time running past their hopes of ever seeing him more, it was justly concluded he was drowned, and every body was in the greatest pain and concern; especially those, who by laying the wager, thought themselves in some measure accessory to his death. But he, by skilful diving, having turned the other way behind the ship; and being also very active, got up by the quarter-ladder in at the cabin-window, whilst

whilst every body was busy and in confusion, at the forward part of the ship; then concealing himself the remaining part of the day in a closet in the state-room, wrapped himself up in a linen night-gown of Mr. Walker's. Evening coming on, the whole ship's company being very melancholly at the accident, Mr. Walker retired with a friend or two to his cabin, where, in their conversation, they often lamented the sad accident and loss of their friend and dear companion, speaking of every merit he had when living, which is the unenvied praise generally given to our friends when they can receive nothing else from us. The supposed dead man remained still quiet, and heard more good things said to his memory, than perhaps he would else have ever in his life-time heard spoken to

to his face. As soon as it was night, Mr. Walker's company left him; and he being low in spirits went to bed, where lying, still pensive on the late loss of his companion and friend, and the moon shining direct thro' the windows, he perceived the folding doors of the closet to open; and, looking stedfast towards them, saw something, which could not fail startling him, as he imagined it a representation of an human figure; but recalling his better senses, he was fond to persuade himself, it was only the workings of his disturbed fancy, and turned away his eyes. However, they soon again returned in search of the object; and seeing it now plainly advance upon him, in a slow and constant step, he recognized the image of his departed friend. He has not been ashamed to own he felt terrors which

which shook him to the inmost soul. The mate, who lay in the steerage at the back of the cabin, divided only by a bulk-head, was not yet a-bed; and hearing Mr. Walker challenge, with a loud and alarmed voice, "What are you?" ran into him with a candle, and meeting Mr. Burnet in the linen gown, down drops the mate without so much as an ejaculation. Mr. Burnet, now beginning himself to be afraid, runs for a bottle of smelling spirits he knew lay in the window, and applied them to the nose and temples of the swooning mate. Mr. Walker, seeing the ghost so very alert and good-natured, began to recover from his own apprehension, when Mr. Burnet cried out to him, "Sir, I must ask your pardon: I fear I have carried the jest too far; I swam round and came in at the cabin window; I meant,

I meant, Sir, to prove to you the natural awe the bravest men must be under at such appearances, and have, I hope, convinced you in yourself."

"Sir, says Mr. Walker, glad of being awakned from a terrible dream, and belief of his friend's death, you have given me a living instance of them; there needs no better proof: but pray take care you do not bring death amongst us in earnest." He then lent his aid in the recovery of the poor mate, who, as he retrieved his senses, still relapsed at the sight of Mr. Burnet: so that Mr. Walker was obliged to make him intirely disappear, and go call others to his assistance; which took up some considerable time in doing, every body, as Mr. Burnet advanced to them, being more or less surprised; but they were called to by him, and told the manner of the
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the cheat, and then they were by degrees convinced of his reality; tho' every one was before thoroughly satisfied of his death. I being persuaded that this story carries a lesson in it, which speaks itself, shall conclude it by mentioning this circumstance, that the poor mate never rightly recovered his senses from that hour. Nature had received too great a shock, by which reason was flung from her seat, and could never regain it afterwards: a constant stupidity hung around him, and he could never be brought to look direct at Mr. Burnet afterwards, tho' he was as brave a man as ever went, in all his senses, to face death by day-light.

This story being circulated through the several degrees of men in the ship, its circumstances seconded the now prevailing opinion in most of the people,

ple, that the other story was also an invention contrived thro' a frolic, or for other purposes. But the prejudice afterwards again fatally prevailed: however, it was allayed for the present.

August the 22d, we gave chase to a snow, the Catharina, laden with wine and flour from Bayonne, bound to Martinico, which struck to our first gun. She proved a very acceptable prize, as we may say we were here our own agents; for we were in want both of her wine and flour: taking out a sufficiency of both to answer our occasions, Mr. Walker afterwards sent her into Madeira, where he intended to follow.

September the first, seeing a sail we gave chase, and next day came up with her. She was the Fortune snow from Orantaver, bound for Ham-
burgh.

burgh. And here a new catastrophe happened. This was a sort of infant mutiny in the ship, not from any disgust to the command or service, but thro' the covetousness of the men, setting themselves up as judges in the condemnation of her as a prize. The case was, she had a large sum of money on board; and the master shewing some backwardness to produce his bills of lading, occasioned a suspension at first of her being French property. Whereupon Mr. Walker had her thoroughly examined; and having to his full satisfaction found, that her cargo, which consisted of two hundred pipes, and thirteen half pipes of wine, and ninety-six bags of money, was for the proper account and risque of Ractic and Zacharias Rigter merchants in Hamburgh, he dismissed her. This was a
step

step very ill relished by most in the ship; and it was insisted upon in their private conferences afterwards, that she was a lawful prize, and consequently they had a right to, and ought to have detained her. However this murmuring did not reach Mr. Walker's ears, till it had gathered itself into a torrent of dissatisfaction. Whilst he was at supper, Mr. Kennedy, one of the lieutenants, came running in with an account, that the crew was in a mutiny. Mr. Walker, and his officers near him, immediately arming themselves, rushed upon deck, where he found them assembled, not indeed in arms, but in a mutinous manner, demanding a parley, in relation to his having dismissed the late capture. Mr. Walker insisted, That this was not the way to ask one; that he was willing, even the meanest man

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in the ship should be satisfied of his conduct; but then he would take care himself to give that satisfaction; and would not be called to an account for it by them. He was, he said, still more sorry, it should be ever said of him, that he was obliged to take up arms against his own people, in defence of that conduct which could be so easily supported by words only: that it would be a pain to him to reflect on it, as long as he lived; and a blot on the character he imagined he had gained: that, in the first place, he would not enter into particulars with them, whilst assembled in a manner, so like a mutiny. Nevertheless, he was desirous of explaining to them the nature of their right over Dutch vessels, as it might be for their general information and ease, (for in all probability they would meet many
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of them in those seas) but that it should be at a time when he pleased to call them together; for as they now stood assembled, they stood in opposition to him, and that every man who did not instantly separate to his duty, when he gave the word, he would treat as associates in a mutiny. Two of the men, *viz.* Charles Eaton and Michael Morgan, crying out, that then it would be too late, as the chase would be out of sight, Mr. Walker demanded the others to bring them in irons to him, in token of their obedience, and sent two of his officers to see it put in execution. This was obeyed. He then ordered them all to their duties till the morning, at which time he would come himself, and give them the satisfaction he promised. They accordingly dispersed, and as strict watch was kept the

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whole

whole night ; nothing of disturbance happened, except that two others endeavouring to unloose their messmates, were laid hold of, and being also put in irons, were all removed up to the quarter-deck. In the morning Mr. Walker bringing the treaty in his hand of 1674, relating to neutral ships, and the liberty allowed them to trade with our enemies, read it himself to them ; and had several copies of the particular articles dispersed amongst them, which, by his direction, had been for this purpose transcribed over night : and, as many of the officers themselves were of the same way of thinking with the men, he then explained to the whole, that as she had no contraband goods on board, he had certainly no right, to detain her, by the treaty. And as to her having any French property on

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board, it is most certain, if that had been proved, they had a right to seize an enemy's effects in the hands of a friend : but that, even so, they had no right to detain the ship, without being subject to all charges to the Dutchmen for demurrage, and other losses, which might accrue to other parts of the cargo ; for tho' we had a right to take it, she had a right to carry it ; as the treaty does not hinder her from carrying French property, if she pleased, provided it was not contraband ; else why should the treaty distinguish what shall be deemed contraband, and what otherways ? that therefore it would be very impolitic in them to stop or detain any vessels, even supposing part of the cargo to be French property, unless such part were sufficient to defray all the expences they might thereby bring
on

on their owners, as aforesaid. That king's ships indeed, tho' as yet they had given few examples of the kind, might, at all events, attack and break such secret trade of their enemies; as the country might find an advantage in paying large damages to one nation for the sake of distressing another: but they had their owner's advantage to consider, who had but private pockets; and that he thought it more honourable in them to return home without a prize, than to bring only such mock ones as these; which, besides the injury done to private property, might prove rather a loss and expence to their owners, than profit or advantage; and which would be reasonably deducted from any after-prizes they might fortunately make, as charges on the profits of the cruise. He said, he knew there were some

gentlemen who looked upon the circumstance of having any French property on board as significant, under the meaning of the treaty, to condemn ship and cargo, at least, the latter, without any damages for detention or otherways, being recovered on the part of the Dutch : that he allowed treaties to be instruments made use of, according to the circumstances of the times and place ; but that, for his part, he was resolved to be guided in his conduct by the plain reason of things, and did not set up for giving occasional meanings to matters of such import. This argument had the wished respect paid to it : it was sensibly understood by most of the better sort, whom the more ignorant followed in assent, as they, who only follow, are led with more ease, as in the herd and bird kinds, by a call or known
note

note among themselves, than the most intelligent speech of reason in an officer or superior. It had also the further desired effect in our future examinations of all such ships; for from the journals I can collect many things of the like kind which came under our scrutiny and inspection. In all which examinations the greatest exactness was observed, to avoid giving the least umbrage or offence: so far as always sending our own boat for the master and commander; as it was an easier and readier office to us than them, and the last question was always asked by Mr. Walker himself at departing, whether they had received any injury or damage from any of the men? This proceeding, I know, will be by some esteemed judicious, by others triflingly cautious. I mean

but to relate it, not to set it out for praise.

The 28th, the island of Madeira bore S. S. W. and there we went in to water. On our arrival we found the prize Catharina not disposed of, so Mr. Walker purchased her for a tender on the Boscawen, she having been proved to be a fine sailer, and gave the command to Mr. John Kennedy the second lieutenant, calling her the George. Here we put on shore the French prisoners, and delivered the four mutineers to the consul, to be put on board one of his majesty's ships, which should first come to the island. And here again eleven of the men committed a disturbance, by an affront done to the major part of a whole congregation at their service of mass, and indeed to the religion of
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the place ; for seeing the people, as they came out of the chapel, dip their hands in a fount of holy-water, and sprinkle themselves and faces with the liquid, one of them, pretending to dip in the fount, very ridiculously let fall some foot into it, which he had got concealed in his hand. This, instead of making the abluments appear white as angels, darkened them as black as devils : one part of the congregation thought it a prodigy, and said their prayers the faster ; others laughed at their fellows, whilst their selves were of as good a complexion for ridicule. But the men, staying too long to enjoy the joke, were detected, apprehended, and imprisoned. This was a new perplexity to Mr. Walker ; it appearing almost impossible for him to obtain their liberty. He applied to the con-

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ful,

ful, who was destitute of all power of giving advice. He at length asked the consul to invite about a dozen of the principal priests and gentlemen of the place to an entertainment on board; and this was, on all sides, complied with. The entertainment was as elegant as all the delicacies of the country, a fine band of musick, which to them was the highest part of it, and all the variety of wines on board and out of the prize, could afford. At a proper time Mr. Walker took occasion of mentioning the rash and inconsiderate act of his common sailors, and representing to them the loss it would be to his majesty's service, to detain his men at this juncture: that the act was committed thro' an intire ignorance of the nature of the ceremony; only as a merriment on the croud, not as an affront to religion, or

or irreverance of what they did not understand : and he promised them, that if they would immediately send him his men, he would, upon his honour, make the chapel a present of a pair of silver branches, or wrought candlesticks, to the value of five hundred mill-reas or about 140 l. sterling, out of the first prize his ship and men should take. This offer was as politely, in recommendation, seconded by many of the company, and his men were sent him that evening. Mr. Walker at the same time sent back presents of several sorts of wine to many of the priests and gentlemen. A circumstance happened in the course of the entertainment, which gave him an opportunity, if he had pleased, of recovering his men by an artifice on the weak understanding

of the priests then present. Having a large flint vial of spirit of vitriol in his cabin, he told the priests he wondered the water, after gaining an holiness from their hands, could be subject to receive a stain, or any contamination whatever; that he had a blessed water on board which would not: and so producing the vial, and pouring the seeming water into a basin, he threw bits of dirt and soot, and pieces of rags into it before them. The spirit immediately devoured them all, (tearing the parts so fine as not to be observed) to the great wonder of the priests, as a supposed miracle; so that they would have gladly accepted this blessed water in exchange of all the prisoners. But as he found the former proposal of a present had already worked a miracle, (which it seldom
fails

fails of doing) and being above taking an advantage by imposing on their ignorance, he discovered the reality to them; the whole company smiling at the easy trade of imposture.



K 6

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

The Boscawen's departure from Madeira ; her meeting the Duke of Bedford privateer, and separation from her in a storm ; the accidents she met with ; the continuance of the storm, and her intire loss.

OCTOBER the 5th, the Boscawen took her departure with the George tender from Madeira, and cruised off the western isles till November the 12th, in which time they chased several ships, which proved to be either Dutch or English. In the night of the twenty-first, she lost the company of the tender, which did not answer her lights. In the morning the Boscawen shortened sail, and went

under double reefed top-sails till six o'clock, when, having gained no sight of the George, she immediately made all the sail she could carry and gave the tender chase; but during the whole day seeing nothing of that vessel, she made the best of her way to get into her station, where she, in a constant course of ill luck, examined several ships; none of which happened any ways to belong to an enemy.

November 2d, she gave chase to a large ship, which, upon coming up with her, proved to be the Duke of Bedford privateer, belonging to Bristol, which had been out nine weeks also without any success, save that of having escaped from an hundred sail of French merchant ships in the bay, under convoy of seven men of war, whom she fell in with. Thus we were convinced the French had changed

changed their manner of coming home, by keeping always in whole fleets and under convoy, never trusting any considerable cargoes in single or straggling ships. Mr. Walker and the captain of the Bedford then agreed to keep company. The second day after our sailing in comfort very hard gales of wind arose, and a great swell from the south; the wind S. S. W. which carried away the main-top-mast. The ensuing days the swell still continued, but the wind somewhat abated: but on the 12th, the wind again blew hard, the weather was cloudy, and there was much rain, which laid us under our vallanced mizens. And here we may say the Boscawen received her fatal blow; for in handing or making fast the main-sail, tho' orders had been given to chain the yard before the people went up yet the boat-
swain

swain had neglected it, the strap of the *geer-block*, by which the yard hung, gave way, and the main yard fell down, having above sixty people on it, with the greatest violence on the gunnel of the ship, clearing all before it. And altho' the starboard yard arm fell so far a-peek into the sea, as to be a great part in the water, yet not a man was hurt or drowned. The ship certainly received some injury in her joints by the accident; for she very soon after grew leaky, which was the inlet to all our future misfortunes in her, that ended in her intire loss.

The Duke of Bedford privateer was along-side when this accident happened; but the violence of the storm not allowing her to give any assistance, she was obliged, in order to provide for herself, to leave the Boscawen:
and

and they never saw each other afterwards.

The second day after this separation, the storm still continuing, the ship sprung a leak in the lar-board-side of her fore-hold ; and made so much water, as to put them under a necessity of keeping two of her pumps continually going : but, by getting their cables from between decks, they found means to come at the leak, and stopped it for that day : but the storm coming on more and more terrible, and the swell also increasing, the ship now laboured hard ; so that she soon began to work in all her lower parts, as if she was loose, or had a joint in her keel, and would part asunder. In which state she now again made such a quantity of water, that the carpenters were at a
loss

loss how to judge of the nature of her leaks, apprehending them to proceed from a general weakness of the whole ship in her original construction: we were at this time cruising off the western isles. Mr. Walker ordered the ship to bear away, till she should come forty or fifty leagues westward of Scilly, where he intended to have finished the remaining part of his cruise. In which station they might, in case of more urgent accidents, be within twenty-four hours sail of Scilly or Kinsale: but on the 17th, the water so greatly increasing in the hold as to alarm the whole ship, the lieutenants and officers signed a petition to Mr. Walker, setting forth the ill state of her, and requesting, that, for the preservation of their lives and her, he would intirely give over the cruise, and make the best of his way

way to England. Mr. Walker met them directly in the ward-room, in consultation thereupon. He told them, that tho' they had not yet found the success expected, he hoped their want of business had not made them weary of the cruise before it was over; for tho' he agreed with them, that the ship was not in a condition to keep them seas, at so great a distance from home, yet, at the same time, he did not apprehend her to be in such imminent danger as to oblige them to give over the cruise. However he said, he would be guided in all things by reason and facts, and desired every one to give their opinion without reserve. Mr. Dottin, the first lieutenant, said, he had very lately examined into the whole state of the ship; that her leaks every minute grew worse, their rigging was spent, and their provision
bad;

bad ; which circumstances were alone the occasion of his becoming a petitioner with the rest. The carpenter made a report, that he hourly expected some butts or planks to start ; the heads of the nails being all eaten away with rust, and the planks not so well trinneled, as our English ships in general are ; and that, from her main hatch to her fore-mast, she was so weak, he would not insure her, notwithstanding their best pumping, to keep above water for twenty-four hours. Mr. Walker then consented to proceed for the first port in England ; observing, that his honour and duty to his owners obliged him to speak to every ship he saw in his way home : but, above every thing, he recommended to them to use their best endeavours to animate and encourage the people, that their spirits might be

be kept up, and consequently be the better able to perform their duty, as therein not only all hopes of future success, but their present safety depended.

From this time to the 20th, the men kept willingly to the pumps. The ship had four pumps of the French construction, which now were kept constantly employed, and which discharged a great deal more water, in equal time, than our common sort do; tho' not so much by the half as chain pumps, but they take less room. Therefore, for all common merchant ships, the French construction is by much the most preferable: but notwithstanding the great and incessant discharge of these pumps, the water all the time gained upon their labour, and the weather continued still very rough, so as to occasion the
ship

ship to work upon the waves with great difficulty. A languor now seemed to steal upon the limbs and senses of the men, and the symptoms of their former despondency began to appear. Every method was taken to invigorate them; but rising circumstances seemed to oppose themselves, at every effort, to all endeavours of that kind. For now, on the twentieth, the storm again increased, and by the greater labour and working of the ship, the water rushed in at all her seams in her fore-part, and several butts above water started; so that now the pumps with all their power were not sufficient to keep it under; but every other hand was obliged to be employed in baling, which threw up such large quantities or such a flood of water on the decks, that the scupper-holes, which were ten in number, and

and very large, were not able to vent it with an equal discharge; and in this situation we continued for seven days longer.

Another speedy consultation was called about throwing the guns over board, and six of the foremost were agreed on to be thrown over. Some advanced, that bringing the guns backwards in the hold would raise the ship more out of the water forwards; but as her leakings were too low for that to be of any use, it was thought that the greater weight in her hold would make her labour still the harder; so they were without delay thrown over.

In this fatal dilemma one of another kind was formed among the people as the only resource for their lives. This was no less than a conspiracy to seize on the small arms, and take the barge and yawl into
their

their possession, and so leave the ship with the captain, officers, and the rest of the crew, to the mercy of the seas. Horrid as this design was, yet as the prospect of preservation by any other means was impossible, it was a crime more to be pitied and prevented than formally condemned and punished; every man being desirous of quitting the ill-omened ship, which was now again believed to be destined to a watry fate. Mr. Walker, who, at all such times, feared his men would naturally fly to cabals, and their own directions, from labour and command, where death seemed the only end of both, had before placed his spies amongst them; and being informed of every movement, and among the rest of this, took occasion to order up some of his officers on the tops, and disposing the rest in the fore-castle and other places, where

where the arms were lodged, they, on a signal given, seizing arms only for themselves, in a moment threw all the rest of the small arms and arm-chests, all the pole-axes, crow's, shot, and every weapon or instrument of offence, overboard. By these means, without waiting for further arguments, the poor conspirators, astonished, perceived it out of their power to execute their design, which they were conscious was detected and at once prevented; and, in the greatest agonies of surprise and fear, imagined Mr. Walker and his officers were now going to put in practice against them what had been by themselves intended against others. But Mr. Walker immediately, with great mildness, told them, he sincerely forgave them their foolish rashness, as he looked on it an effect rather of their fears than disobedience.

obedience : that if they would now exert their best strength and spirits, to pump and bale out the water, they in all probability would preserve themselves and him : but the moment they declined so doing, they must expect as sudden death in going to the bottom. If they did their utmost, he and his officers would never part from them : but if they refused their assistance to the general preservation, he had it in his power to provide separately for himself and officers, as they before so cowardly intended to have done for themselves. This being at once the doctrine and practice of humanity, so affected the poor fellows, that many of them were seen to turn aside and weep ; touched with a sense of the generous goodness of their preserver, or with remorse at their own intentions. They all then

endeavoured, dispirited as they were, to give him three cheers, of their love and gratitude; which were sent up in such broken and feeble sounds, that Mr. Walker, on his part, could not help letting fall a token of his grief at the death of their usual vigour. He and his officers, being solely armed, removed next the barge and yawl, for their greater security, from the booms; and bringing them aft, lashed them one on each side the quarters, where they were immediately under his own eye and command. Thus disappointed of all other means, which was the great enforcing argument, the men applied themselves to the pumps, and their other duty, with such unwearied diligence, that they did all that could be expected from men in their condition.

From this time Mr. Walker never quitted the quarter-deck ; nor once lay down for seven days, sleeping only as he stood, leaning on the barricade or rail of the quarter-deck ; for the men watched every motion and every word. And had he disappeared a minute, 'tis believed the duty of the ship had stopped, the officers themselves, notwithstanding the frequent assurances of resolution given by them to Mr. Walker, at sometimes being as desponding as the men. But whatever the captain's own fears were, he never discovered them even to his officers ; insisting to the last, he did not think the ship in any instant danger : so that such of them as gave a preference to his judgment over their own senses, a while grew more easy. Mr. Walker had taken in at Madeira

twelve quarter casks of the best Malmsey wine, intended as presents for his friends. These he ordered regularly to be portioned out to them, under the inspection of his officers; which by its good body and soundness greatly kept up the natural strength and spirits of the men. It was thought proper to move two of the pumps forward to the hatch-way: which being just under Mr. Walker, as he stood on the quarter-deck, you might see the men in their labour look up at him, as it were searching his countenance; and at every forced encouragement send up some blessing, often answering his seeming chearfulness with not unmanly tears. Another circumstance added much to our calamity. All the casks, by the water rising so high in the hold, floated or rolled

rolled about, striking from side to side against the ceilings of the ship; that they were obliged to stave all such of them as they could reach, to the loss of most of their provision and water; and the men had no other sustenance, except some cheese, than the wine and bisket.

On the twenty-fourth, the storm grew still more violent than before; so as to have given business sufficient for the soundest ship, to have made her way in safety thro' it. She now worked forward, as it were upon joints, letting in vast springs of water at every motion, and groaning hard as she laboured on in the storm. Seventeen more of the guns were without much consultation sent over, the anchors cut away with the sprit-sail-yard, and flying-gibboom, and every thing done, without regard to

loss, which was thought to give her ease. The pumps also choaked in the hatch-way, and were hastily removed to their former place. The next day, the fore-sail, as they were hauling it up, split all to pieces by the violence of the wind. The rigging also, through incessant strains, by the labouring of the ship, gave way. Thus they just swam almost a wreck upon the sea, every moment expecting to sink for ever, and every wave to be the last thro' which the ship could struggle; for they could not spare the hands from the pumps and bailing to repair any damages. Happy had it then been thought, if their worst enemies had come to save them by bondage from a more inglorious death. But not a sail was met with or seen, since the departing of the Duke of Bedford privateer, during the whole

whole time of their distress. Mr. Walker was now the only man, except one, who did not make some visible shew of his fears; and indeed the only one who appeared unconcerned as to the danger, as he insisted the ship would reach her port: but then his great anxiety of acting, shewed him touched with a more general care than he would express for himself alone. Being addressed by some of the most terrified, that prayers might be said, he answered, he hoped every man's heart was an altar of constant prayer and praise; but that a formal ceremony of such duty presented in distress only, looked like a compulsive sacrifice of fear, and was confessing the motive of it, despondency, which might be justly rewarded with the bad effects of its danger in lowering the spirits or hopes of the men: but

that to animate themselves and men, was doing their duty to the last: on such good assurances of being right therein, prepared to submit to fate, or ready to embrace with thanks their deliverance. When afternoon came, the men began to flag in spirits and in work, seeming careless of the arrival of that fate to which they thought they must yield at last; and several argued it to be folly in them to pump any longer. To offer threats or penalties where death was asked, promised little success. Whilst Mr. Walker was thus in study what means to use, he missed most of his principal officers at the same time. They in fact had retired from under his eye, not daring before him to give utterance to their mutual feelings of their danger, and had met in the gun-room in melancholy consolation, in order

order to take eternal leave of each other. Acquainted herewith, but not seeming to notice it, he privately sent up a man to the top to cry a sail, and having called his drum to him, bid it immediately beat to arms. The sudden alarm of joy soon elevated the men, and startled the despondents below; who, running up and hearing a sail cried, closed round Mr. Walker for his orders. "Sir, says one, do you think of engaging?" "Yes, Sir, says Mr. Walker, in a low voice, when I see an enemy so near—your own fears, which attack the hearts of all my other men. I am willing to take my greater part of duty, but you leave too much to my share." Perceiving the device, in which as they felt the rebuke, they were convinced of his superior perseverance, they never after left his command: but the discovery

was not communicated to the men ; for it now growing dark, they were kept up in spirits for the night, as in hopes of coming up with the sail next morning.

The next morning no sail appearing, the men were somewhat cast down ; but the storm being abated they were encouraged to proceed to the first land, as they were in no capacity of going in search of a chace. This held for the greater part of the day, till reflection shewing them the insufficiency of their past hopes, and no further prospect rising of success, the former malady of mind returned, and all seemed lost again ; when Mr. Walker assured them, as positive in his own judgment, they would see land next day. This again wound up hope, which waits on expectation ; tho' he certainly did not make assurance to himself

himself of his promise, but only used this device as a policy which touched the chief spring of the mind's machine, namely, the same hope on which all the other passions turn. During this suspense, a man came running upon the quarter-deck, whether scared by his own fears, or sent by the others, is uncertain, with news, that the ship was just then going to sink. "You villain, you lie, cries Mr. Walker: she told me otherwise this moment, as she rose on yonder wave;" and knocked down the poor fellow, who went back to his comrades, with an account of the reception he met with for his over hasty intelligence. Thus Mr. Walker's undismayed resolution to the last began to communicate itself to the spirits of the others, and kept them up thro' weariness and fatigue, with an hope which sometimes

L 6. times

times grew to a faith, that they were to be preserved because he was the prophet ; and thus another night was worn thro' in labour and anxiety, wishing for a suspension of death till morn, which was expected to bring the promised reprieve.

The morning came, and joy, like an additional light broke forth with it, and cheered the souls and very beings of the men ; for land now appearing, proved it a true prophecy. Thither they steered, and the weather clearing and wind favourable, they seemed to make an happy progress on their way, tho' still in equal danger, and with incessant fatigue of mind and body. The land was St. Ives : at length their strength was just exhausted, notwithstanding the continued prospect of relief more and more at

hand, which spoke an encouragement, they reached the bay, and had they had another league to go 'tis thought their best labour had not attained it, so spent were the men, and so deep was the water in the ship. They instantly hoisted their colours of distress, and fired some of their remaining guns as signals ; upon which the boats went off to their assistance, and brought the ship into the road. From the quantity of water in her hold, and the want of anchors to bring her up, it was judged most adviseable to get her within the pier ; but the people not being able thro' the violence of the wind and sea so to do, she fell to leeward of the harbour, and lodged herself on a rocky shore, which the moment she touched, she broke into two, and altogether separated ; one mast falling in

in upon the shore, and the other mast upon the sea. By the nearness of the shore and the number of boats, all the men were saved except four, and three of these had foretold the destruction of the ship.

Thus fell a wreck the finest privateer in Europe: 'tis certain she felt a shock by the falling of the yard; but the carpenter insisted she would have equally leaked, and her butts have started on account of the heads of the nails being eaten away with rust, and of the planks not being well trineled, as has been before observed; which French method of building is herein erroneous: for tho' they be very skilful in the mechanism of a ship as to her proportions for well sailing, yet they are not so just in the goodness of their constructions, their bodies
being.

being generally too weak, as was proved to be the case of this unfortunate ship: whereas the trinnels or pegs by swelling, become of a united body with the rest of the planks or timber, and, having no heads for the planks to force against, cannot so readily start as the others. But in accounting for this accident to the ship, I have heard Mr. Walker lay great charge of it to himself, and have his express directions to mention it, as it may be of some public use. That the French, regarding chiefly the failing of their ships, may, in their great knowledge of mechanics, calculate to an exactness the strength of them, to the weight of metal they are to bear; he changing her guns, from twenty-eight nine pounders, to thirty twelve and nine pounders, as before-mentioned, might be too constant and
top-

top-heavy a weight on her decks, when she came to labour in a storm.

The people of the sea-coast of Cornwall have for some years undergone the censure of being savage devourers of all wrecks, that strike against their coasts. How weak a creature is general belief, the dupe of idle fame! Humanity never exercised its virtues more conspicuously than in this instance, in the inhabitants and people of St. Ives. They flocked down in numbers to our assistance; and, at the risque of many of their own lives, saved ours. Mr. Walker would not be prevailed upon to quit the ship, till he had seen the sick lifted thro' the cabin windows into the boats; bidding all, without distinction, provide for themselves, as he was capable of swimming: but he was himself, at last, lifted out by two of the
towns

townsmen, strangers to him, who went upon the wreck to bring him off.

It would be tedious to paint all the sensible expressions of thanks and gratitude, in the people to Providence for this their great deliverance : I shall mention one for the whole, as the most particularly observed by the rest. The surgeon, who had been on board, was a gentleman of good wit and understanding ; but unhappily remarkable for too loose a neglect of duty to that being he had always sense enough to revere. In all the former scenes amidst others concern, he shewed so little sense of feeling at any change of state which mortality was subject to, that his lighter flights of humour seemed still wholly to possess him. At the very last consultation, when every
other

other mind was attentive to the highest objects, he having fixed his eyes very stedfastly on a person opposite to him, who had but one arm, broke out into a violent fit of laughing; and being reprimanded for his mirth, so out of season, "I am only laughing, says he, to think, how awkward that fish there will swim with but one fin." This gentleman getting on shore, whither the ship, as by the word of Providence, had just lived to deliver them before her own dissolution, and being touched certainly at such interposition in his favour, threw up an eye to heaven, in the presence of the whole company, that sparkled with a fire more than commonly human, crying out, "O God! to whom, for these seven years, I have not lifted up my eye or heart in prayer,

prayer, I now presume to thank you. Let me never forget this thy mercy, or my duty more."

When they came into the town, every body's house was open to them in all the offices of assistance: but above all other instances which could be given of the generosity of the place, gratitude must here pay her greatest debt, in remembering John Stevens, Esq; whose unwearied activity, liberality, and prudence, in aiding, befriending, and directing our affairs, are without parallel, except in other like actions of his own. He took Mr. Walker to his own house; where he lived with him during his stay in the place: he was, in short, in every circumstance from Mr. Walker, down to the lowest man, the father of redress to every grievance. When we mention this gentleman as most distinguished-

stinguishable amongst many others, we do not forget to acknowledge the debts of obligation we owe to the mayor, the magistrates, and other gentlemen of the town, whose invitations, readiness to serve, and other acts of civility, rendered them ever worthy the best report of their deserving. The first night Mr. Walker made all his officers sleep under their arms, as he did the like, to be in readiness, in case of any attack against the wreck; and accordingly so it happened, for in the night the miners came down, and were setting about sharing the wreck amongst them. At the very first alarm, the mayor himself was up and a party of the town, who went in arms with Mr. Walker against them, dispersed the croud, and took two of the men prisoners: these are a people the civil power are scarcely

scarcely answerable for, at least for their good manners, as they live almost out of the districts of human society, and may be said to be no visible inhabitants of the earth, tho' they act in the world. The time during their stay, which was upwards of three weeks, was solely employed in taking care of the wreck; and thro' the assistance of the aforesaid gentlemen and others, every thing and matter was taken care of with as much and more exactness, than if the wreck had lain at the shore of Dartmouth, or the doors of the proprietors; and a great part was saved to a considerable amount. Mr. Walker did not forget to remind his officers in the duty he had before advised to them, of returning thanks to that Preserver, to whom they owed so great a deliverance; and the Sunday]
after

after went, at the head of all his officers and most of the crew, to church, where public thanks were returned for the late great and divine mercies they had received ; and the clergyman was so interested in the case, as to preach a very excellent sermon suitable to the occasion. Mr. Walker then went to Dartmouth.

Thus ended this unfortunate cruise, protracted for upwards of three months, by various perplexities and accidents, in which Mr. Walker was to take his trial as in success. I have not yet made mention of the cause of the George tender quitting the Boscawen, which perhaps was one of the wickedest steps ever taken of the kind. The captain of her designedly went off with her to Ireland, and there sold the greater part of her wines. He indeed returned with her
after-

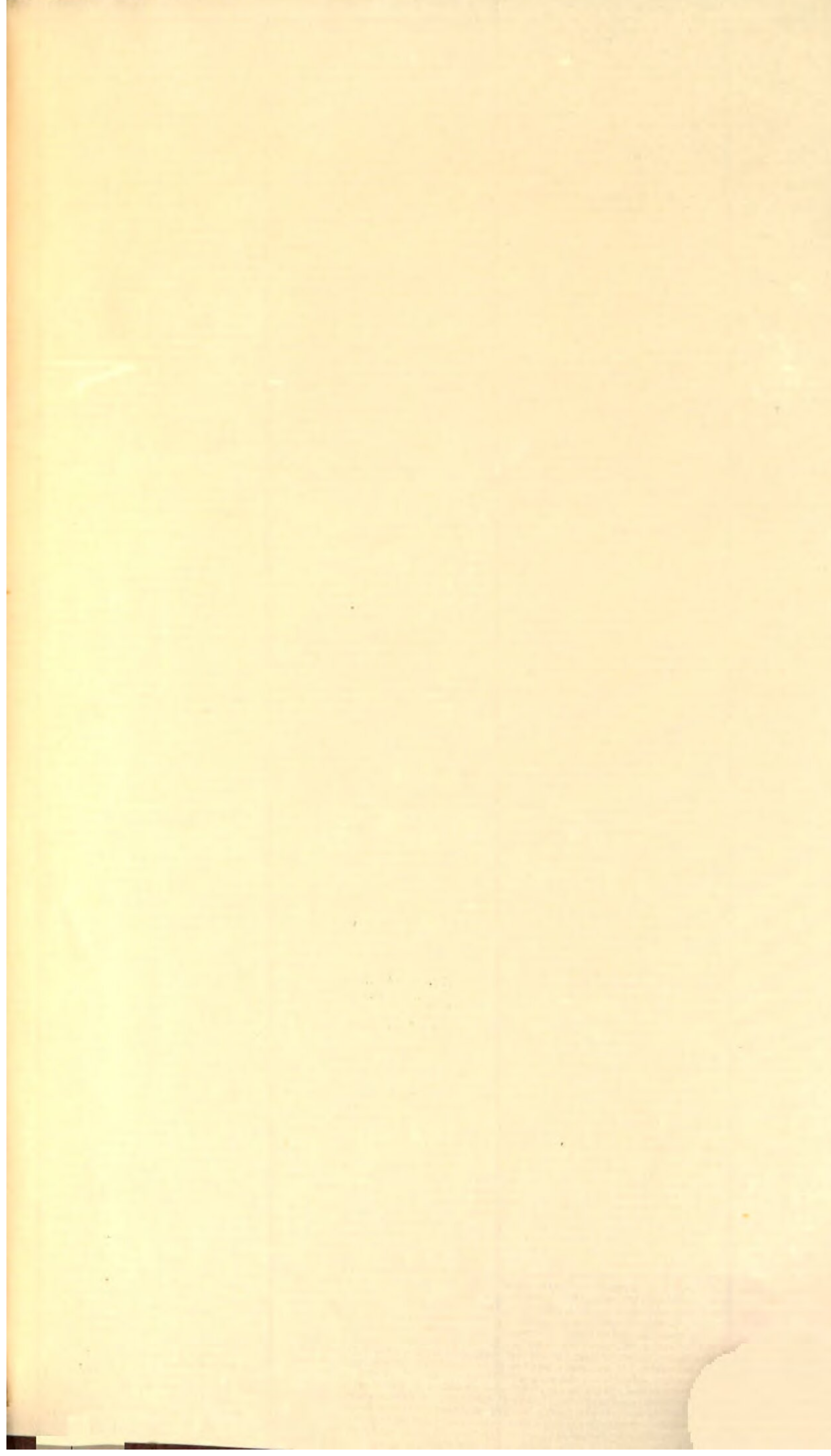
afterwards to Dartmouth, with some vague excuses for his behaviour. This action also shews itself the more wicked, as, in their consequent distress, they might all have perished, for want of the assistance he could have given.

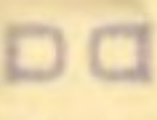
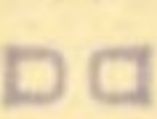
This was the only cruise in which I did not attend Mr. Walker, having been detained at Dartmouth thro' illness; but I was present at the interviews between him and his late owners, who received him with marks of esteem, and a joy equal to what had been the claim of the best success. One of the first questions Mr. Walker asked was, whether they were insured? The answer was, No, nor ever would be in a ship where he commanded. They further offered, and which was, at several times after repeated,

peated, to build him a new forty gun ship from the stocks, after his own model and directing; but his affairs at this present hurried him to London.

The End of the First VOLUME.

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